

Fall/Winter 2020

FLORIDA FORESTS

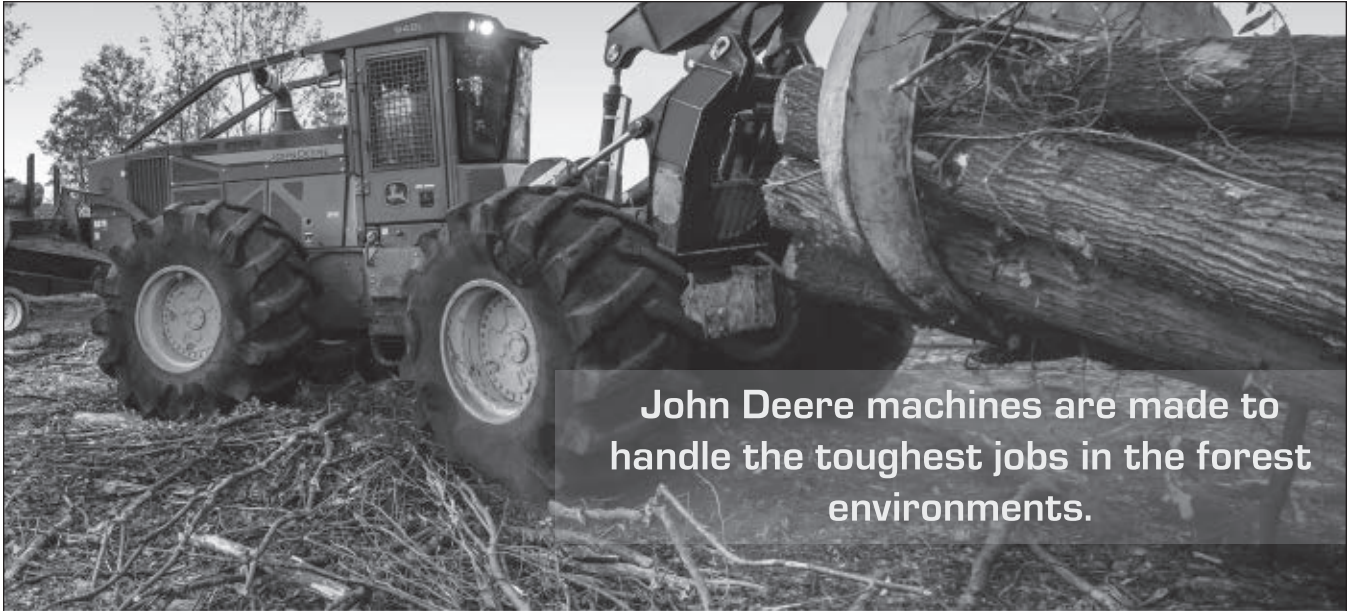
AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

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Presenting Leaders, Award Winners &
100 Outstanding Florida Landowners

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SURVEYS DURING THE PANDEMIC

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Volume 24, Issue 2
Fall/Winter 2020



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Phone: 850-222-5646
info@FLForestry.org
www.FLForestry.org

Executive Editor
Lee Ann Fisch
Florida Forestry Association
Director of Communications

Advertising, Layout and Printing
Deb Churchill | Print 2.0h!

Association Leadership
Carlton Jones, President
Jimmy Bielling, Vice President/President Elect
Ann Hutchinson Duff, Secretary/Treasurer
Alan Shelby, Executive Vice President

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Group Publisher: Mike Gronitzke
Editor: Michelle Harris
Project Manager: Amanda Glass
Publication Director: Raymond Strickland

Advertising Sales:
Ryan Griffin, Susan Maracle, Beth Palmer,
Matthew Yates, Chris Zabel

Marketing: Kiana Gonzales

Project Coordinator: Cindy Samons

Layout and Design: Deb Churchill

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Telling the Forestry Story

By **ALAN SHELBY**, Florida Forestry Association Executive Vice President

Despite the challenges this year has presented on a global scale, Florida forestry is entering 2021 on a strong foundation.

Declared an essential industry in the early days of the pandemic, forestry operations have continued without the problems that many others have experienced. Products, ranging from tissue to lumber, have remained in high demand. Employment is steady. We may have had to adjust our sails, but the storm did not stop us.

Not even a worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 can hinder the environmental services that forestry provides. In the midst of all this craziness, our forests

carry on, filtering our air, purifying our water, providing habitat for wildlife and plants, and offering beautiful spaces for much-needed recreation.

If I were asked to name our secret weapon for success, that award would have to go to our people. The men and women of Florida forestry demonstrate a passion and commitment that can withstand any challenge. Individually, they are strong, determined, and knowledgeable. Together, they are unstoppable.

In this issue of *Florida Forests*, our pages are graced with some of the faces of Florida forestry. I am proud to work for an association representing such an impressive group of leaders, landowners, and award winners. They are in the spotlight, but they represent thousands of unsung heroes as well.

Florida forestry is made possible by a remarkable workforce. From landowners and loggers to equipment operators and executives, just to name a few, the 124,000 jobs created by our industry are as diverse as the people who perform them.

Our people, products, and positive impacts on the economy and the environment are all part of the forestry story. We are the good news people need to hear after a long and challenging year.

With a new year comes a clean slate. Let's fill that slate with the good news of Florida forestry. Whether you're active on social media, or are more traditional and prefer face-to-face encounters, I encourage you to tell your part of the forestry story. Share your passion, your experience, and your expertise.

Florida forestry makes a positive difference in many ways. If you are fortunate enough to be part of the forestry family, be proud of what you bring to the table. Be excited that you are part of the solution to many current problems. And be motivated to help others learn about all the good things that you and your forestry family are doing to make the world a better place.

I wish you all the best in 2021. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and to be part of the forestry story. ●



IF I WERE ASKED TO NAME OUR SECRET WEAPON FOR SUCCESS, THAT AWARD WOULD HAVE TO GO TO OUR PEOPLE. THE MEN AND WOMEN OF FLORIDA FORESTRY DEMONSTRATE A PASSION AND COMMITMENT THAT CAN WITHSTAND ANY CHALLENGE.



MEET THE PRESIDENT

Family. Optimism. Gratitude.

Those who know Carlton Jones recognize these as core elements in his approach to life and business.

By **LEE ANN FISCH**,
Florida Forestry Association

When Carlton Jones gave his first presidential address at the Association's Annual Meeting in September 2020, he credited his family for helping him to be who and where he is today. He shared his optimism for the future of Florida forestry. And he expressed his gratitude for the opportunities he has been

given and the people who have made them possible.

FAMILY

Carlton will tell you that his family is the pinnacle of his life. He met Georgia, his wife of 32 years and counting, through mutual friends at Florida State University.

After graduation, the happy couple moved to South Florida. He had earned a degree in criminology with an eye toward law school but ultimately decided on a different route. He entered the sales force for an electronics distribution company.

Fast forward a few years. Georgia's father, Dick Cochran, had purchased Southern Wood Piedmont's pole, piling, and post plant in Lake City, Florida, renaming it Cochran Forest Products. He was looking for help maximizing the potential of the new venture.

Carlton and Georgia were still in South Florida, now proud parents to baby Mary Elizabeth. They were looking for a more family friendly place to put down roots.

Both needs were met when Carlton joined the Cochran Forest Products (CFP) team in 1991.

"Dick was a great partner and mentor," Carlton said. "He got me involved and taught me the forestry business. He brought me to my first Florida Forestry Association Annual Meeting in 1992."

In the following years, the family business grew, and so did the family. Mary Elizabeth was joined by brothers Nick and Richard. The fact that Carlton could not be prouder of his children is evident when he talks about them.

Mary Elizabeth, now 29, works at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Georgia,



Carlton and Georgia Jones with their children Nick, Mary Elizabeth, and Richard.

IMAGES COURTESY OF FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.



Carlton accepted the symbolic presidential gavel from outgoing president Edward Cole at the Association's 2020 Annual Meeting in September.

where she is also enrolled in graduate school. Nick, 24, attends graduate school at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida. And Richard, the youngest at 14, is a freshman at St. Francis Catholic Academy in Gainesville, Florida, where he plays golf and baseball.

Like his family and children, the business also prospered. In 2018, ready to take the next step, CFP was sold to Robbins Manufacturing Company. Carlton continues to work for the company, providing sales, procurement, and consulting services.

OPTIMISM

"The forest industry has a great, positive story to tell," Carlton explained. "We are the people providing clean air and water. Our forests are sustainable and renewable. Our products are in demand. The environmental services forests provide are invaluable."

As president, Carlton plans to make telling the forestry story a key part of his platform. He plans to continue to work with our public and private partners. "We can and should be in the forefront on issues like climate change and carbon sequestration," he said. "We can set the narrative. It's all about education."

The way Carlton sees it, there is no better time than now.

"People have felt the panic over a shortage of toilet paper," he said. "They are aware of the need for our products. Now we just need to present the facts."

He believes that one cause of confusion comes from the misconceptions on social media and the media in general that the industry clearcuts and destroys our forests.

"That is just not the case," said Carlton. "The forest industry has a lot to be proud of, including being the first agricultural industry in the state to implement best management practices, replanting seedlings on thousands of acres annually, and providing many outdoor recreation opportunities for Florida citizens."

He noted that reforestation is vital to the environment and the economy. In fact, reforestation ranks as the biggest challenge he currently sees for the state's forest industry, particularly in Florida's Panhandle.

"We have to clean up from Hurricane Michael, and we have to get seedlings back in the ground," he said. "We have to make sure we keep acres in trees overall. Trees are good for the industry and the environment. Everybody wins."

According to Carlton, the future looks bright for the forest industry. He sees opportunities arising from issues such as environmental services, climate change, carbon sequestration, and mitigation, as well as from a fresh awareness of the need for the amazing array of items made from forest products.

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"We need to be innovative and stay positive. If we think things through and do them the right way, the sky is the limit," he said.

The forest industry has been spared the economic havoc that COVID-19 has unleashed on other sectors. It was, in fact, recognized as an essential industry and has remained very strong. With forest products in high demand, industry workers have been able to keep their jobs.

The strength of the industry, explained Carlton, has a far-reaching effect. It not only impacts the forestland owners, loggers, consulting foresters, silvicultural operations, mills and production facilities, it also creates a ripple effect of support for many local businesses that the industry touches.

"We've continued to use all of our peripheral products, services and industries and kept them going as well," Carlton noted. "When you think about all the businesses we work with that were able to keep their doors open because we didn't close ours, that's important."

GRATITUDE

Carlton described his reaction to being named president of the Association in three words: honored, humbled, and excited.

"I'm following a long line of icons in the forest industry," he said. "I will work to carry on their legacy of keeping our Florida forest industry vibrant and innovative."

Carlton said that he is very thankful to have the opportunity to work in the forest industry and with the Association. Of all the things that forestry has going for it, he believes that its greatest asset is its people.

"They can't be matched on a personal or professional level," he explained. "You don't do it these days, but in forestry you feel comfortable shaking someone's hand, looking them in the eye, and knowing what they say is what they mean. They tell you what they're going to do, and they do it."



Carlton joined with other Association leaders at the state capitol for legislative visits.

Carlton wants Association members to feel good about where their industry is and where it is going.

"We all work hard and do our thing," he said, "but every now and again we need to step back and just take a minute to think about what a great industry we work in. There is so much to be thankful for and to look forward to."

"I've been blessed beyond what I deserve on every level, and I'm grateful for it all," he said. "As president, with the help of our outstanding staff, executive board, and board of directors, I hope we can lead the Association in a positive direction and make the industry and my family proud." •



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THE FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION IN PROFILE

OFFICERS



JIMMY BIELLING,
Vice President/President-Elect

Jimmy Bielling and his wife, Kathy, own and operate Bielling Site Prep & Reforestation with their son, Jesse, in Providence, Florida. The operation was selected as the winner of the 2016 Silvicultural Contractor of the Year award. They also have a small cow/calf operation, own and manage real estate, and grow the only Tabasco® peppers in Florida.

Even with his diversified interests, forestry remains Jimmy's greatest passion. After all, it is a Bielling family tradition dating back to his great-grandfather, who harvested turpentine. Today Jimmy says that his company is responsible for the site preparation for the majority of the land between Providence and Starke.

"Forestry has so much going for it," Jimmy said. "We help the economy and provide jobs, and at the same time we deliver important environmental services, such as filtering the air and water."

"It's an exciting time to be in forestry," he said. "I think people are beginning to realize how much we impact their daily lives in positive ways. I just want to get that message out more and more until everybody knows."

Jimmy and Kathy live on the family farm in Providence. Son Jesse, his wife, Lynsi Bielling, and their son, Jesse R. "Jax" Bielling, V, also live in Union County, a few minutes from the farm. Jimmy has one daughter, Betty Rees Bielling, who lives in Jacksonville, Florida.

"IT'S AN EXCITING TIME TO BE IN FORESTRY."



ANN HUTCHINSON DUFF,
Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Hutchinson Duff is a Fiber Sustainability Manager with WestRock in Fernandina Beach, FL.

A self-proclaimed "beach girl" from Jacksonville Beach, Florida, forestry was not an expected career path for her. She became hooked after taking dendrology and forest ecology classes at the University of Florida's School of Forest Resources & Conservation and knew she had found where she needed to be.

"It's exciting to be part of an industry that is so crucial to our environment," Ann said. "We are committed to sustainability, so that future generations can continue to enjoy the same amazing environmental benefits we enjoy today."

After graduating, Ann worked for Rayonier before moving to Jefferson Smurfit, which eventually morphed

into WestRock after a series of mergers. She was transferred to Virginia in 1999 but returned home to Florida to care for her mother in 2011.

With encouragement from old friends in the industry, she resumed activities in the Association. Ann served as chair of its communications committee for four years before taking on the responsibilities of secretary/treasurer in 2018.

"Forestry makes a difference to our world on so many levels," said Ann. "And the Association makes a difference to the industry. Once again, I know I am where I need to be."

Ann is the proud mom of Ian, age 29, who lives near Washington, D.C., where he works in the defense industry.

"FORESTRY MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO OUR WORLD ON SO MANY LEVELS."



ALAN SHELBY,
Executive Vice President

Alan Shelby has been an integral part of the Association team since 2001, when he joined the staff as the director of governmental relations. He was later selected to serve as the assistant secretary/treasurer as well.

Alan took the helm as Executive Vice President in 2012.

"January marks my 20th year with the Association," Alan said. "In that time, Florida forestry has proven its strength and resilience time and again. The future

holds exciting opportunities and challenges for us, and we are in a strong position to make the most of them."

"The people make the industry," he said. "And our people are the best. They are committed to moving forestry forward. I'm looking forward to seeing where the next 20 years takes us."

Alan lives in Tallahassee, Florida with his wife, Jennifer, and daughters Sarah, 20, and Addison, 13. He enjoys spending time with his family and in the great outdoors.

**"THE PEOPLE
MAKE THE
INDUSTRY."**

STAFF

LEE ANN FISCH, Director of Communications



Lee Ann joined the Association staff in 2012, after a 19-year career in legislative affairs and grassroots communications with the Florida Farm Bureau. A graduate of Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, with a bachelor's degree in communications, she has also worked as a freelance writer and photographer.

WHITNEY HOUGH, Director of Member Services



Whitney joined the staff in 2015 as the Association's administrative manager and was subsequently promoted to Member Services Coordinator before taking on her current role. Whitney is a native of Tallahassee and graduate of Florida State University, where she received her bachelor's degree in Merchandising & Product Development. Before joining the Association, she was a business-to-business sales consultant.

LAURA BOSWORTH, Director of Forestry & Regulatory Affairs



Laura spent her earlier career working and playing in the forests of the Southeast as a county forester, a longleaf specialist, and the Southeastern Tree Farm manager. She attended Iowa State University where she obtained her bachelor's degree in forestry with a focus on ecosystem management and services. She joined the Association staff in 2019.

KRISTA HARVARD, Office Administrator



Krista was originally born in West Palm Beach and moved to Tallahassee in 2000. She received a bachelor's degree in biology from Florida State University in 2015. After graduation, she worked in the field of case management before leaving the medical field for the Association in 2019. •

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications: John Dooner – Southern Forestry Consultants (consultant)

Environmental: Wesley Carter – Loncala (landowner/logger)

Government Relations: Mark Milligan – F4 Tech (consultant)

Leadership/Nominations: Edward Cole – Coward, Hicks and Siler, P.A. (attorney)

Steering: Jeremy Sapp – Sapp's Land & Excavating (logger)

TREEPAC: Avery Roberts – Roberts Land & Timber Investment Corp. (landowner)

AT LARGE

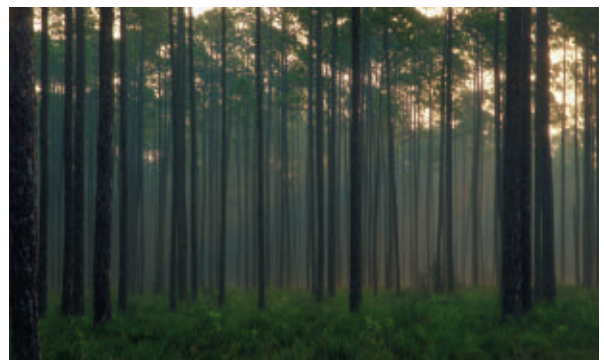
Matt Goodin – Georgia-Pacific WFS LLC (pulp & paper)

Lynetta Usher Griner – Usher Land & Timber (logger/landowner)

Russ Hannon – Great South Timber & Lumber (sawmill)

Jim Karels – Forestry Consultant (consultant)

Matt Webb – Genesis Timber (logger/timber dealer)



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BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE



FLORIDA IS KNOWN for its diverse landscapes, and nearly half of the state is covered in forestlands. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) is the lead state government agency for forestry and fire. As the largest division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services with nearly 1,200 employees, the FFS is an agency comprised of men and women who serve Floridians: protects them from the devastating effects

of wildfire, provides great outdoor recreation, and manages our forest resources to ensure they are available for future generations.

The FFS State Office is headquartered in Tallahassee and manages district offices located statewide. Join us as we take a closer look behind the scenes with the leadership of the Florida Forest Service.

Field Operations is the largest bureau in the Agency, overseeing 15 districts and more than 1,000 employees throughout the state. This bureau is generally considered the “boots on the ground” and works to execute the plans and guidance developed by the other three bureaus to achieve the FFS’s mission, vision and strategic goals.

WHAT QUALITIES DO YOU VALUE MOST IN YOUR TEAM?

For Chief of Field Operations, Sam LeNeave, that would be honesty, a positive attitude, and the willingness to think outside the box. Honesty is the first step to building trust, both internally within the team and externally with the public (our customers); without it, we won’t consistently be successful. Maintaining a positive attitude in the face of adversity is critical to team success. Things don’t always go as planned. Regardless of how tough it gets, we need to remain positive. Positivity brings calmness and keeps us moving toward solid solutions. In our business, it is critical to think clearly. We must be creative in developing solutions to the complex problems we face. It’s rare that a problem comes to our team that is easy. If it were easy, someone else would have already solved it.

passionate as they work toward accomplishing the mission. Whether it’s responding to a wildfire during a pandemic, conducting general maintenance on a facility, or assisting during hurricane relief efforts, our people will do what is necessary to get the job done. This has been an excellent agency throughout my 29 years, and the people are responsible for the success we have enjoyed.

WHAT ARE THE GREATEST CHALLENGES FACING YOUR BUREAU TODAY?

The greatest challenge we’re facing right now is the same one the entire country and world is facing: COVID-19. There are several reasons I believe this is our greatest challenge – and not just the obvious, significant health concerns to our people, their families, and our ability to accomplish our mission should we experience an outbreak within our ranks. We will be dealing with the impacts of this pandemic for some time as it has affected our ability to gather, to mass forces, and provide focused effort to accomplishing a specific goal. This impacts our emergency response, training, hiring, and several other ongoing major efforts as we

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF WITHIN YOUR BUREAU?

Easy, the people! Our people always impress me with their commitment to the mission, regardless of what the mission is at the time. They are innovative, resilient, and



Sam LeNeave, Chief of Field Operations

work to provide services to our customers, just to name a few.

However, as I have mentioned, our single greatest resource is our people. They are resilient, innovative, and committed. Together, we are developing tactics, techniques, and procedures to accomplish our mission while maintaining a safe environment. As I lead this team through these challenges, it is important to set a climate where our people feel empowered to adjust processes and procedures – an environment where they communicate the successes and challenges widely, so that we can replicate success and minimize the challenges while holding each other accountable to following the safety guidelines proven effective thus far.

There isn't any institutional knowledge on how to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, so we must be open to listening to ideas and look for opportunities to apply the lessons learned in our daily operations. Despite all the challenges, the FFS will come through even stronger because we faced them together and learned new ways to do things – ways that we can and will apply on the other side of this pandemic.

The Forest Protection (FP) Bureau is primarily located at the State Office and is comprised of nearly 40 employees. This bureau oversees the Agency's aviation, communications, federal equipment (FEPP), fire prevention and mitigation, meteorology, prescribed fire, safety, standards, and training programs. FP also manages the Department's All-Hazards

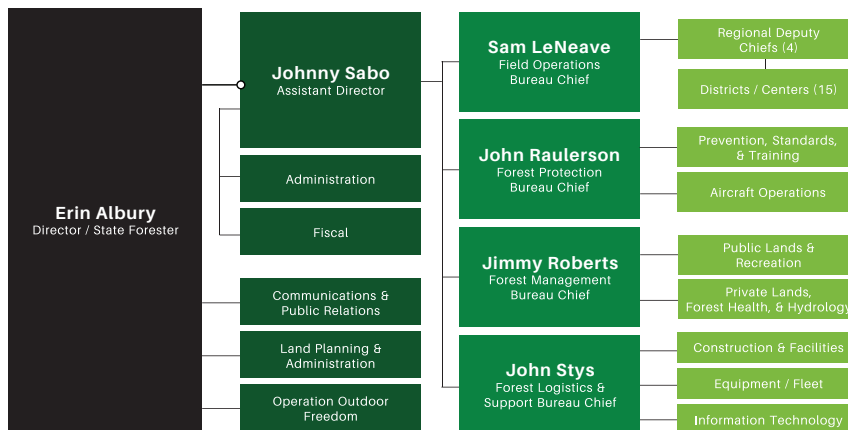


John Raulerson, Chief of Forest Protection



FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

Organizational Chart



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Incident Management Teams, which respond to emergency incidents both in and out-of-state.

WHAT QUALITIES DO YOU VALUE MOST IN YOUR TEAM?

I began my career as a forest ranger with the FFS 24 years ago following an active duty tour in the United States Army, so I believe training is the key to success, said Chief of Forest Protection John Raulerson. Knowing the mentality and struggles that our men and women face every day has given me the perspective and empathy I need to develop new plans and tactics for those I'm leading. I value my team's breadth of knowledge, willingness to learn, readiness to be part of the team, and ability to adapt on the fly. As I take on this new position as Chief of Forest Protection, I am looking forward to pushing us into the future – to not only make our team better as a whole but to help each of them be successful as well.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF WITHIN YOUR BUREAU?

Our people will go above and beyond to accomplish the mission and uphold the core values of the Florida Forest Service no matter what the task might be. I am proud of the knowledge this bureau holds and their efforts to help our customers, both internally and externally.

WHAT ARE THE GREATEST CHALLENGES FACING YOUR BUREAU TODAY?

With Florida's population continuing to increase, especially in the wildland-urban interface, there are more people and more homes to protect. This requires ongoing education for new residents, and suppression response times become imperatively more critical. In the Panhandle, the unprecedented volume of broken, uprooted, and blown over trees left from Hurricane Michael will continue to be a challenge for the next decade. It will require more equipment and new tactics to suppress the 72 million tons of heavy, dense fuels spanning across the 11 impacted counties.

Retention is also one of the most challenging issues we face. We have a very robust training program for our new forest rangers (wildland firefighters) that make them very good at their jobs. These positions are highly specialized and critical for adequate emergency response. However, it also makes them valuable hires for other agencies, both federal and municipal, that are looking for an employee with a well-rounded skill set in the fire service industry.



Jimmy Roberts, Chief of Forest Management

The Forest Management Bureau is primarily located at the State Office and is comprised of nearly 40 employees. This bureau oversees the Agency's forest management programs on both public and private lands. Public lands include 38 state forests and a ranch that cover more than one million acres, providing Floridians and visitors with access to camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, riding, bird watching and more. Private lands include private and community forests that cover more than 17 million acres across the state.

WHAT QUALITIES DO YOU VALUE MOST IN YOUR TEAM?

For Bureau Chief Jimmy Roberts, that would be the ability to adapt to changing conditions and having a can-do attitude, said Chief of Forest Management Jimmy Roberts. The Bureau's personnel have an abundance of knowledge in the many different disciplines that we administer and are willing to help wherever they are needed.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF WITHIN YOUR BUREAU?

I am proud of the cohesion everyone has in the Bureau as well as the Division and their willingness to help each other accomplish our mission.

WHAT ARE THE GREATEST CHALLENGES FACING YOUR BUREAU TODAY?

As we move forward amidst the coronavirus pandemic, a couple of challenges we face are advancing technologies and having to change how we conduct our daily business. Equipment and technology are improving daily, so keeping up with the latest advancements and how they can be used is tough. I will continue to look for ways to improve our processes and challenge my team to do the same. As we continue the process of updating our timber inventory program, training, and the hands-on use of new equipment will be done in smaller groups than usual. Also, meeting in person with private landowners, driving around their property looking at their accomplishments and offering counsel and services is the way our business has been conducted for decades. The need for social distancing practices has changed this as well. Encouraging our employees to explore options that will allow them to complete their work while maintaining safety protocols will be essential.

Forest Logistics and Support (FLS) is primarily located at the State Office and is comprised of nearly 30 employees. This bureau oversees the FFS's facilities and construction, equipment/fleet, and information technology sections. FLS mostly supports the Agency internally, providing the critical infrastructure and services that are required to accomplish the FFS mission. The functionality of the FLS Bureau highly impacts all other bureaus and their ability to serve the public.



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John Stys, Chief of Forest Logistics and Support

WHAT QUALITIES DO YOU VALUE MOST IN YOUR TEAM?

Some might think that the best teams consist of highly skilled people, but hard skills alone don't define a team. You must consider soft skills such as attitude, communication, teamwork, work ethic, honesty and leadership, said Chief of Forest Logistics and Support John Stys. A team that works well together is one that communicates effectively, has a good attitude, trusts each other, accepts both success and failure as a team, works together to find solutions, values each other's opinions, and helps one another.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF WITHIN YOUR BUREAU?

The FLS Bureau works to listen to the customer's needs, recommend innovative solutions, and find ways to work within budgets. After 29 years with the State (and 24 of those with the FFS), I can honestly say that I am most proud of the reputation for customer service that this bureau has built with Field Operations, the FFS employees located across the state and our customers, said Chief of Forest Logistics and Support John Stys. We've built a very good rapport with our district managers, which is critical. It's important for our FLS section managers and district managers to be able to pick up the phone at any time when a question or issue comes up. We don't always get it right, and that's okay. Owning our mistakes is central to learning from them. I really enjoy process improvement. It might be something small, but if it helps someone do their job better, more efficiently, then that's a win for the day! Our FLS team has a lot of smart, innovative, and service-oriented people who love to help our people and make their jobs easier. And, for that, I am proud of our FLS team!

WHAT ARE THE GREATEST CHALLENGES FACING YOUR BUREAU TODAY?

One of the newest challenges in FLS is retention. Not from employees leaving but retiring. We have been very fortunate that most people stay because the FFS is a great place to work. Recently, we had someone who wanted to come back after leaving just five months earlier! The short-term challenge is vacancies as we continue to work through the coronavirus pandemic and the possibility of budget restraints that could affect our ability to fill those

positions. With salary increases out of my control, I must look at what I can control. It is important for a team to know their leader cares. People have lives outside of work and when "life happens" they need to know that you care and support them. Empowering and trusting my people to do their jobs, recognizing them for their efforts, creating an environment where they want to be at work and they feel like their work matters and is making a difference – those are ways I can do that. And, probably most important, always communicate and be transparent with them. •

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AWARD-WINNING FORESTRY

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FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION'S LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR: SENATOR DOUG BROXSON

Senator Doug Broxson has been a friend of Florida's forest and wood products industry for many years. During his time in the House of Representatives and through his tenure in the Senate, Senator Broxson has been an advocate and fighter for a myriad of issues directly impacting forestry. Following Hurricane Michael in 2018, he joined with former colleagues Senators George Gainer and Bill Montford to highlight the devastation caused by the storm.



Senator Doug Broxson with Association President Carlton Jones

As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Broxson again kept the

timber industry at the forefront of the discussion, using every tool available to ensure recovery dollars make it to Florida forest landowners.

"We appreciate Sen. Broxson's tireless work and dedication to Florida's working forests," said Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. "We look forward to continuing our friendship and working relationship throughout his tenure in the Florida Senate."

Broxson represents Florida's Senate District One, which includes Escambia, Santa Rosa, and part of Okaloosa Counties in the Florida Panhandle. He previously served in the Florida House of Representatives, representing northern Okaloosa County and Santa Rosa County from 2010 to 2016.

REPRESENTATIVE BOBBY PAYNE

Representative Bobby Payne has been a friend of the forest and wood products industry from his first day in the legislature. Representing the Palatka area, Payne is in the heart of Florida's wood basket. Over the previous two sessions, he has immersed himself in passing comprehensive water policy legislation which provides tools, and a pathway forward to address the state's water quality and water quantity challenges.



Representative Bobby Payne with Association President Carlton Jones

Payne's efforts were rewarded in the 2020 session as the Legislature passed SB 712. This omnibus package reflects hours and hours of work and strikes a practical balance using science and data as the backbone for some of our most challenging water issues.

"We appreciate the passion and energy that Representative Payne pours into his support of Florida's forest industry," said Shelby. "We are proud to call him a friend, and we look forward to continuing our strong working relationship throughout his tenure in elected office."

Payne has represented the Florida House of Representatives' 19th District since 2016. District 19 includes Bradford, Putnam, Union and part of Clay Counties.

**FLORIDA FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION'S DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD: BRYAN OLMERT**

Bryan Olmert moved to Florida after high school to pursue a career in forestry. After attending Lake City College and Forest Ranger School, he joined the staff at Loncala, Inc., as operations manager. His hard work, commitment, and leadership eventually earned him the position of president, where he served for more than two decades. He retired in 2015 after 40 years, but he continues to be an active part of Loncala's board.



Bryan Olmert with Association Past President Edward Cole

During his career, Olmert played a leading role at the Association, culminating in a two-year term as president. He remains a valued member of its Board of Directors. He is a past director for the Forest Landowners Association as well.

Olmert played a very important role with the Timber Harvesting Equipment Program at the Chiefland campus of the College of Central Florida. He was not only instrumental in behind-the-scenes work and planning, but he also served as the instructor for the class.

Olmert has also been very involved with his local community. He worked on the High Springs Comprehensive Plan, was a past President of the Chamber of Commerce, and a past Rotarian President. Olmert has attended and served the First Baptist Church of High Springs for the past 45 years.

"The positive impact Bryan's lifetime of service has had on Florida forestry is undeniable," said Association President Carlton Jones. "His body of work has earned the respect and appreciation of

the Association, as well as many other groups and individuals who continue to benefit from his efforts."

**FLORIDA FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION'S
ABOVE & BEYOND:
LYNETTA USHER GRINER**

As the name suggests, this award recognizes members who go above and beyond on behalf of Florida forestry. For Lynetta Usher Griner, 'above and beyond' is just the starting point. Her resume of accomplishments is long and distinguished.



Lynetta Usher Griner with Association President Carlton Jones

Griner has served in a variety of leadership roles for the Association, culminating in a term as its first female president. A former Florida Woman of the Year in Agriculture, Griner effectively uses her many public platforms to advocate for forestry on local, state and national levels. In 2017, she was one of only 14 producers from across the country invited to the White House to discuss agricultural issues with President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.

"I've known Lynetta for a number of years, and I can tell you that she was born to be a leader," said Jones. "Her love for forestry and her passion for the land are evident in everything that she does."

Griner is Secretary/Treasurer of Usher Land & Timber, Inc., a family owned logging, farming and cattle company in Chiefland, Florida, where she works with her husband, Ken, and their son, Korey.

**FLORIDA LOGGER OF THE YEAR
AWARD: JERRY GRAY**

According to Jerry Gray, manager of Gray Logging, Inc., in Madison, Florida, he comes by his love of logging naturally. Multiple generations of his family have made their living from the woods. The business operates 14 logging trucks and semi-trailers, working with a number of mills within a 100-mile radius of Madison.



Jerry Gray with Association President Carlton Jones

"Jerry Gray embodies the essence of logging at its best," said Jones. "He is known for his extensive knowledge, his strict adherence to professional practices, and his passion for the industry. All of those qualities are reflected through his outreach and education efforts in his local area."

In addition to the logging operation, Gray is active in community workforce development through a partnership with North Florida College. The school offers a Commercial Driver License (CDL) program. Gray was not only instrumental in launching the program, he also provided a logging truck and trailer for training.

The Logger of the Year Award recognizes loggers who demonstrate exemplary contributions and exceed industry expectations. The Florida Logger of the Year Award was initiated in 1987 to spotlight loggers in the state who manage their operations in compliance with forestry best management practices, maintain safe highway and woods operations, use logging personnel and equipment effectively, develop unique business practices, and practice high business ethics.

**JON GOULD OUTSTANDING TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR:
DON ASHLEY & THEO MEADOWS,
ASHLEY FARMS***

Don Ashley and his sister, Theo Meadows, convey the values of the Tree Farm program through their care and management of Ashley Farms. The 570-acre operation has previously been selected as the Florida Land Steward of the Year.



According to their consulting forester, Dave Lewis of Southern Forestry Consultants, Ashley Farms is positioned in a way to take advantage of changing markets and technology and to manage for a diverse forest that integrates timber, wildlife, recreation, agriculture, and conservation.

"Ashley Farms is regarded as a model for encouraging other landowners to become great land stewards of their working forests," said Jones. "It is a prime example of how actively engaged landowners achieve their goals."

**SILVICULTURAL CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD:
ALBERT AND CHAD NORRIS,
NORRIS & SON REFORESTATION**

"The father and son duo are known for their work doing site preparation, land clearing and road work," said Jones. "Working side by side, they have been in business for more than 30 years, building a solid reputation for outstanding service, hard work and community involvement. Their clients appreciate the honesty, integrity and reliability that have become the Norris's trademark."

Albert and Chad don't like to boast about their achievements. They prefer to let their work speak for itself. They have developed a very loyal client base who



Chad Norris with Association President Carlton Jones

know that they can call on them at any time and rely on them to get the job done.

**GLEN HARRIS TREE FARM INSPECTOR OF THE YEAR:
ZACHARY BUTLER,
MADISON COUNTY**

Zach Butler started with Florida Forest Service (FFS) as Madison County Forester June 1, 2018 after graduating from the University of Florida in May of 2018. While a student at the University of Florida he was on the Crew (rowing) team which takes hard work and dedication. This ethic has carried over to his work with the FFS. He became an American Tree Farm System inspector and immediately started completing Tree Farm inspections in his county. When requested to assist landowners or complete inspections he has been proactive in discussing the benefits of the Tree Farm Program. Zach has a sense of urgency to get information back to the Florida Tree Farm Program committee and there is no follow up needed on the status of his inspections.

Zach has been an excellent team player, assisting other Tree Farm inspectors and being involved on the Florida Tree Farm Program advisory committee. He took an active logistical



Zach Butler

role with visiting sample-certified Tree Farms in Florida during the 2019 Program assessment. He also nominated the 2020 Jon Gould Memorial Florida Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year and assisted in circulating information about the candidate to all parties in the judging process.

Zach has built a trusting relationship with the landowners and the community he works with. This has allowed him to increase the number of Tree Farmers and Stewardship Forests in his county. Zach's hard work in Madison County benefits the forest landowners, the Florida Forest Service, Tree Farm Program, and all the Program partners.

**ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES' PRIVATE LANDS FISH & WILDLIFE STEWARDSHIP AWARD:
DOUG MOORE, SOUTH PRONG PLANTATION**

Doug Moore of South Prong



Doug Moore accepting the 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award from then-President Edward Cole

Plantation has been nationally recognized for his proactive conservation and environmental practices, and outstanding stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.

South Prong Plantation is a working, multi-use timberland operation that provides wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities and a living classroom to teach others how to be better land stewards.

"Doug's contributions are a great example of the important role private landowners play in conserving Florida's habitats and wildlife populations for future generations to enjoy," said Eric Sutton, executive director of the FWC. •

Florida Forest Service Honors 100 OUTSTANDING FLORIDA LANDOWNERS

By **MONICA CORBIN**, State Communications Manager, Florida Forest Service

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH forestry agencies across the country, the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) has been celebrating 100 years in 2020 with a Centennial Challenge on social media. The “challenge” highlights and honors the work of the association in providing a unified voice for state and private forestry in the United States since 1920, as well as the tremendous social, environmental, and economic contributions state forestry agencies have made nationwide for more than a century.

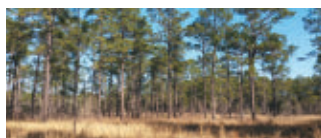
In celebration of the NASF’s 100th anniversary, the Florida Forest Service (FFS) recognized 100 outstanding forest

landowners throughout the state who have exemplified exceptional forest management practices, public outreach, and conservation efforts. Honorees were nominated by their local FFS county forester, and they represent 66 of Florida’s 67 counties.

With 65 percent of Florida’s forests being privately owned, developing relationships with landowners is always a top priority for FFS county foresters. These partnerships are integral to achieving sustainable forest management. Recognizing landowners from every corner of the state is a symbol of the Florida Forest Service’s appreciation for their

stewardship and commitment to ensuring Florida’s greatest natural resources are protected while continuing to provide economic and environmental benefits for future generations.

The NASF is a non-profit organization composed of the directors of forestry agencies in the 50 states, U.S. territories, and District of Columbia. Their members manage and protect state and private forests, which encompass nearly two-thirds of America’s forests. To learn more and to view centennial celebrations across the nation, visit NASF100.org or follow #NASF100 on Facebook and Twitter. •



Alachua Co.: Lee Pinkoson



Bay Co.: Bill Register



Brevard Co.: Michael Moehle



Charlotte Co.: Paul Christman



Alachua Co.: John & Katherine Ewel



Bay Co.: Larry & Susan White



Broward Co.: Weston Lakes Maintenance Association



Citrus Co.: Dixie Hollins



Baker Co.: Ronnie Kirkland



Bradford Co.: Jason Canova



Calhoun Co.: Jim & Alison Browne



Clay Co.: The Weeks Family Farm



Baker Co.: Doug Moore



Bradford Co.: Greg Jackson



Calhoun Co.: Andrew Byrd



Clay Co.: Mike Dressel



Collier Co.: Amy Lawson



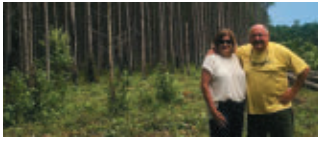
Franklin Co.:
Tom and Katie Herzog



Hardee Co.: Keith Miller



Jefferson Co.: Bonnie Carn



Columbia Co.: Mark Crow



Gadsden Co.:
Marcia & Billy Boothe



Hendry Co.: Margaret England



Jefferson Co.: The Morris Family



Columbia Co.:
Russell & Penny Weber



Gadsden Co.: Jack Buford



Hernando Co. TJ & Betty Storch



Lafayette Co.: The Hurst Family



DeSoto Co.: Don Hall



Gilchrist Co.:
Craig Gillikin & Joann Duffy



Highlands Co.: Doyle Carlton, III



Lafayette Co.:
Harlie & Pamela Lynch



Dixie Co.: Roy Skinner



Gilchrist Co.: Nolan Galloway



Hillsborough Co.:
Brian & Marilyn Wilder



Lake Co.: Robert Panuska



Dixie Co.: Dwight Knight



Glades Co.: Lykes Bros. Inc.



Holmes Co.: Sylvia Glover



Lee Co.: Eliot & Pam Barden



Duval Co.: The Davis Family



Gulf Co.: Jerry Gaskin



Holmes Co.: James Martin



Leon Co.: Theresa Gerrell



Duval Co.: Scott Miller



Gulf Co.: Brenda Ward



Indian River Co.:
McKee Botanical Garden



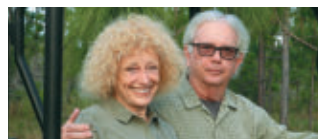
Leon Co.: Glen & Emmala Barden



Escambia Co.: James Neyman



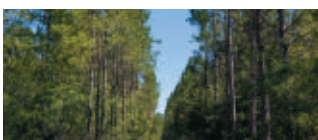
Hamilton Co.: Everal Allen



Jackson Co.:
David & Cindi Stewart



Levy Co.: John & Allison Nash



Escambia Co.: Eddie Slay



Hamilton Co.: David Culpepper



Jackson Co.: Quinton & Jan Anglin



Levy Co.: Jim & Mary Helmers



Flagler: Fred Ahern



Liberty Co.: Norman Sauls



Liberty Co.: Bill Stoutamire



Madison Co.: Guign Wyche



Madison Co.:
Howard & Terry Putnal



Manatee Co.:
Dr. Olin & Vicky Oberlander



Marion Co.: John & Wanda Faro



Marion Co.:
John & Shirley Rudnianyn



Martin Co.: Cyndy Trossbasch



Miami-Dade Co.:
Terry & Barbara Glancy



Miami-Dade Co.:
David & Louise King



Nassau Co.: Carlos Alvarez



Nassau Co.: Bill Qualile, Jr



Okealoosa Co.: Curt Cunningham



Okealoosa Co.: Kathleen Williams



Okeechobee Co.: South Florida
Water Management/Justin Nolte



Orange Co.: Steve Dill



Osceola Co.: The Hayman Family



Palm Beach Co.: Gene Joyner &
Cindy Jordan



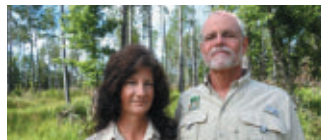
Pasco Co.: Jake English



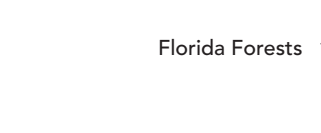
Pinellas Co.: Blanche Whitesell



Polk Co.: J.R. Dobruck



Putnam Co.:
Ben & Louann Williams



Putnam Co.: Bill Baker



Santa Rosa Co.: Michael Price



Santa Rosa Co.: Barbara Glenda &
Edward Ward



Sarasota Co.: Aran Lawrence



Seminole Co.: Anne & Richard
Dunlap



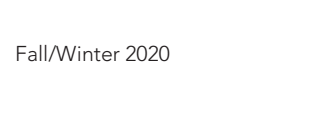
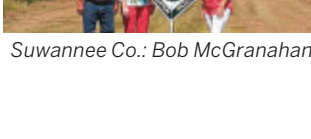
St. Johns Co.: Mike, Carol &
Thomas Adams



St. Lucie Co.: Keep Port St. Lucie
Beautiful/Rebecca Booth &
Georgette Beck



Sumter Co.: Courtney Hatch



Suwannee Co.: Bob McGranahan



Taylor Co.: Robert & Molly Lilliot



Taylor Co.: Georgia Young



Union Co.: Langford Tree Farm



Union Co.: Jeffery Bielling



Volusia Co.: Dr. James Stonestreet



Wakulla Co.: John McLean



Wakulla Co.: Chester & Rita
Grimsley



Walton Co.: George Joseph



Walton Co.: Robert & Christina
Larson



Washington Co.: George Hobbs



Washington Co.: Pat Owens



ADAPTING SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE SURVEYS DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

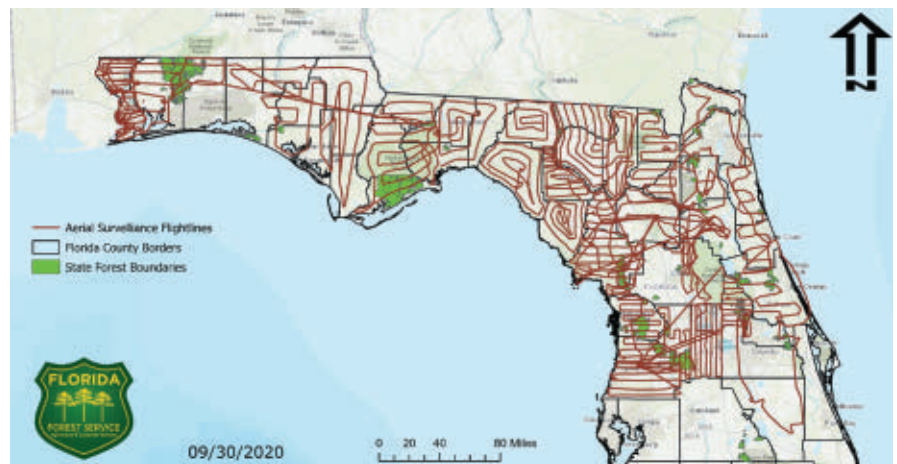
By **JEFF EICKWORT**, Entomologist, Florida Forest Service

THE SOUTHERN PINE beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis* or SPB) is widely recognized as one of the most destructive pests of pines in the southeastern United States, capable of regional outbreaks that rapidly kill thousands of acres of forest. Like other state forestry agencies in the region, the Florida Forest Service conducts annual survey programs to predict and detect SPB activity. This year, our survey efforts were faced with a new kind of challenge: the coronavirus disease of 2019, or COVID-19.

The SPB monitoring efforts begin with the spring pheromone trapping survey using beetle traps to determine where SPB activity is more likely to occur in the coming year, based on the abundance of SPB and their main predators at each location. Aerial survey flights follow in the summer, crisscrossing the state in aircraft to look for the distinctive pattern of tree mortality that indicates a possible SPB infestation (or "spot"). This allows us to provide an early warning to the affected landowners, which is crucial for stopping small infestations before they become major outbreaks.

While the trapping survey is mostly a solitary process, aerial survey flights typically require a pilot to spend long hours in a small aircraft cabin with a

All images courtesy of the Florida Forest Service.



Aerial survey flights flown by Florida Forest Service pilots in 2020, covering the area of North Florida where southern pine beetle activity has historically occurred.



View from a flight camera that records continuous, GPS-linked video of a survey flight.

forester, who records observations with a GPS-enabled tablet. To avoid canceling the aerial SPB surveys, the Florida Forest Service worked to meet the challenges of COVID-19 and accomplish the task while reducing the risk of exposure.

Pilots were given training on how to recognize SPB spots from the air and how to record their locations using the existing GPS systems in their aircraft. This allowed them to do survey flights without any other crew involved. Flight cameras were tested to ensure they could record continuous, GPS-linked video of the surveyed area. Where the local COVID-19 infection rate was considered low enough to allow a crew member, our FFS personnel used appropriate PPE to reduce the risk.

With those measures in place, the Florida Forest Service has been able to complete 26 surveillance flights in the 2020 season, logging more than 9,900 flight miles to survey more than 21 million acres. As of October 1, no



Aerial view of a southern pine beetle infestation from a 2012 outbreak in St. Johns County.

SPB infestations have been detected this year in Florida. Those results match the 2020 spring trapping survey results, which forecasted a generally low SPB activity statewide.

While the coronavirus pandemic has presented many obstacles, it also has

created opportunities to adapt and overcome challenges. The benefits of the improvements we've made in pilot training as well as technology will carry us well into the future as we stay committed to protecting Florida's forests. •

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Creating Solutions through **COLLABORATION**



By **KIM SCOTTO-KELLEY**,

Communications Specialist, UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation



MODERN FOREST MANAGEMENT problems are multi-faceted and require research-based information in areas like silviculture, forest soils, forest health, and genetics. The Forest Biology Research Cooperative (FBRC), based at the UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC), brings these many areas of expertise together in one place to address pressing forest management issues through multi-disciplinary, collaborative research.

Our mission since 1996: To optimize productivity, health, and sustainability of intensively managed forest ecosystems by investigating the interactions among genetics, silviculture, insects and disease, competition, nutrition, soils, weather, and climate.

"The FBRC takes innovative approaches to cooperative research," said FBRC Co-Director and SFRC Professor Tim Martin. "Among the FBRC 'firsts' are: The first silviculture x

full-sib family block plot experiment (PPINES); the first multi-rotation "carryover" experiments (IMPAC II and SSPS); and the first genetics x nutrition x soils experiments (CCLONES; SSIGNS)."

These experiments are hosted on UF property and cooperator land and throughout the southeast United States. Cooperators receive direct benefits from this research, including the most comprehensive set of phenotypes and genotypes available for loblolly pine and family specific information on nutrition and disease resistance characteristics and interactions.

"Current directions build off our knowledge of genetics, disease and silviculture to model and predict risks from disease, insects, fire, wind and climate on productivity," said FBRC Co-Director and SFRC Professor Gary Peter.

Members also receive additional support from the FBRC in the form of site visits and disease and insect diagnostics.

Current members include Rayonier, Inc., F & W Forestry Services, Inc., Nutrien Ag Solutions, Resource Management Service, and Superior Pine.

One of the FBRC's strengths is leveraging these cooperators' investments.

"We obtain grants from outside funders to do additional work based on FBRC field experiments and genetic material. This stretches our cooperator's dues dollars by providing much more data and research than could be accomplished by dues revenue alone," said Martin. "Since 2010, the FBRC has generated more than \$10 million in additional externally funded research to supplement our cooperator's investments."





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The program has also supported dozens of graduate students at the University of Florida and through collaborations with Texas A&M University, University of California at Davis, and Virginia Tech. These students often go on to continue research at universities or in forest management enterprises where they continue to benefit the industry.

Interested in partnering with the FBRC? Visit sfrc.ufl.edu/fbrc/ for more information. •

All images courtesy of the Forest Biology Research Cooperative (FBRC), based at the UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC).



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FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION & THE FL-SIC PARTNER WITH LU_LAB TO BRING FORESTRY TO ARCHITECTURAL STUDENTS

THE FLORIDA FORESTRY Association and FL-SIC have partnered with the University of Miami School of Architecture's LU_lab to host a virtual architectural tour. Association Director of Forestry and Regulatory Affairs Laura Bosworth is collaborating with the LU_lab Director, Assistant Professor Christopher Meyer, to lead innovation between academic, manufacturing and professional organizations.

The fall semester offered an advanced design studio titled *Wood and Everything After*. This lecture series serves to connect upper-level undergraduate and graduate architectural students, practitioners, and researchers to create environments that foster wood innovation and healthy forest management.

It is hoped that in the near-future the lecture series will be able to evolve to offer in-person visits and experiences.

This studio is funded by the first U.S. Forest Service Wood Innovations Grant awarded in Florida. LU_Lab's proposal, *All That Is Solid: Platforms for Wood Innovation*, focused on the development and distribution of a series of educational resources on mass timber and solid wood products, "servicing to link a critical market opportunity to support the economic well-being of the rural counties that maintain over 17 million acres of forestland across the state."

LOOKING FORWARD & GETTING INVOLVED

The long-term goals and benefits of this partnership is the expansion of the design curriculum to specifically address wood through the lens of ecology, forestry, mass timber and solid wood architectural agendas. The partnership between the association, and the FL-SIC are helping to shape conversations in design that aim to expand the wood products market for Florida and advance wood building techniques.

We are excited for the potential in upcoming years to further support this effort, hopefully in-person. This unique opportunity for both supply and demand to come together



THANK YOU TO 2020 SPEAKERS FOR **WOOD & EVERYTHING AFTER**

Daniel Wirth, SmartLam NA and Minimal Impact Engineering
Processing Lecture: CLT Fundamentals

Dan Roach, Rayonier
Working Forest and Mills

Don Pattee, West Frasier
Logistics and Processing

Laura Bosworth, Florida Forestry Association
Forest Policy & Regulations

Jarek Nowak, Florida Forest Service
Ensuring Sustainability & Best Management Practices

Chris Demers, University of Florida
Research, education and outreach role in stewardship

Ann Duff, Westrock
Certification and Sustainability

Dr. Patrica Layton, Clemson's Wood Utilization • Design Institute
Wood Utilization Lecture

Jan Knippers, University of Stuttgart ITKE-IGD
Advanced Fabrication and Engineering Lecture



Image courtesy of Miami School of Architecture's LU_lab.

provides the needed space for both facets to learn about each other's needs and perspectives. The LU_Lab is planning a summer design studio focused on building with mass timber and solid wood architecture.

If you are interested in supporting the ongoing efforts and future efforts or would like to learn more please contact Laura Bosworth at laura@flforestry.org and Chris Meyer at cmeyer@miami.edu.



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Annual Meeting 2020

THE ASSOCIATION'S 2020 Annual Meeting was held September 1-3 at the beautiful Omni Amelia Island Resort. A slate of outstanding speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, silent auction donors, and attendees combined to make this year's event a success. Given the challenging circumstances, we are especially grateful for everyone's support this year.

PowerPoint presentations from the sessions are available for viewing under the Annual Meeting tab on our website, FLForestry.org.

The Timbers Topper Golf Classic, a favorite Annual Meeting tradition, combined the best of work and play – 18 holes of networking with industry professionals on a course designed by golf legend Pete Dye himself! •



Martin Hackney, Chris Lands, Jim Spratt, and John Dooner



Patrick Spinosa, Jeremy Sapp, Austen Roberts, and Eric Handley



John and Dominca deBrauere, Tom Beitzel, and Tim Stuhr
Images courtesy of Florida Forestry Association.



Jim Karels, Michael Dooner, Russ Hannon, and Jim Tilton

Jim Karels Joins Natural Resource Planning Services, Inc.



Natural Resource Planning Services is most pleased to announce the addition of James R. "Jim" Karels to its consulting forestry firm. Jim is the retired State Forester and Director of the Florida Forest Service, serving in that capacity from 2008 until 2020. He is a national leader in prescribed burning,

wildfire suppression, and land management with more than 39 years of experience in these fields. Jim has held numerous national leadership positions including his service as President of the National Association of State Foresters. His awards and accolades are substantial, including being inducted into the Florida Society of American Foresters Hall of Fame and receiving the Florida Forestry Association's Distinguished Service Award, among many others. Jim will have a diverse role with NRPS, but in part, he is anticipated to provide strategic

direction and support of private and public forest management services while also engaging in ag/timberland real estate in the near future.

NRPS' John Holzaepfel commented: "We are very excited to have Jim come aboard as a member of the NRPS family. As many of us at NRPS have personally started our careers with Forestry, we have known Jim for decades and have grown to appreciate his character and vision. Jim is a true leader in the forest industry both in Florida and nationally. He has been a passionate advocate for timberland protection through programs such as the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program while also effectively promoting proper stewardship of private and public timberland. Jim certainly brings all the tools necessary to be successful as a consulting forester and provides NRPS with additional expertise related to issues pertinent to forest conservation, forest management, prescribed fire and much more."

Jim can be reached at JimK@nrpsFORESTERS.com

Wayne Smith to be Inducted into Florida Ag Hall of Fame



Wayne Smith, Emeritus Professor and past Director of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, UF/IFAS, has been selected for induction into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Dr. Wayne Smith's contributions to Florida agriculture encompass his lifelong devotion to education and research and forestry passion. Smith, a native of Marianna, Florida and graduate of the University of

Florida, returned to his alma mater in 1964, advancing through the academic ranks as a professor, director, and finally, professor emeritus. In retirement, he served as interim dean for UF/IFAS Research and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. He proved to be a groundbreaking educator, researcher, and administrator.

The induction ceremony is currently scheduled to be held at the Florida State Fair's Agricultural Hall of Fame Banquet on February 16, 2021. For more information and updates, please visit FloridaAgHallofFame.org •



Brian Lombardi, Charlie Usina, Carlton Jones, and Tom Sandlin



Donnie Fleming, Jay Chupp, Ben Lancaster, and Chris Johnston

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