

FORESTRY PINES & NEEDLES

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2024 ANNUAL MEETING & TRADE SHOW



The Association's 2024 Annual Meeting was held August 27 - 29 at the beautiful Omni Amelia Island Resort. A slate of outstanding speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, auction donors, and attendees combined to make this year's event a big success! Thank to everyone who played a part in the event! We are very

grateful for your tremendous show of support.

Special thanks also to our special quest speakers: Congresswoman Kat Cammack, Congressman Aaron Bean, and Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Wilton Simpson.

2024-2026 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Please help us welcome our 2024-2026 Leadership Team...



Officers

President: Avery Roberts (pictured on right) - The Roberts Companies, shown with Past President Jimmy Bielling - Bielling Site Prep & Reforestation, Inc.

Vice President - Wesley Carter, Helm Land & Timber

Secretary/Treasurer - Ann Hutchinson Duff, Smurfit Westrock

Executive Vice President - Alan Shelby, Florida Forestry Association

Executive Committee

Committee Chairs

Communications: Mark Milligan - F4 Tech

Environmental: Shawn DeRome - Rayonier, Inc.

Government Relations: Jim Karels - Karels Forestry and Fire Consulting

Leadership/Nominations: Jimmy Bielling - Bielling Site Prep & Reforestation, Inc.

Steering: Ryan Pavlik - Assured Partners Stoutamire-Pavlik & Associates

TREEPAC: Russ Hannon - Great South Timber & Lumber

At-Larae

John Dooner - Southern Forestry Consultants Matt Goodin – West Fraser

Lynetta Usher Griner - Usher Land & Timber Jeremy Sapp - Sapp's Land & Excavating Ray Sharp - American Forest Management

New Board Members

In addition, the Association's Board of Directors added several new members to its roster:

Christophe Agricola - Shield Properties David Dyson - Larson & McGowin Ted Everett – Hard Labor Creek Plantation Chad Lincoln – Forest Investment Associates Brian Lombardi – Robbins Manufacturing Tim Odom – Loncala Jay Vogel – Natural Resource Planning Services Harold Wheeler - Rayonier Advanced Materials

AWARD WINNERS

Award-winning forestry was also celebrated:

Legislators of the Year:

Senator Jennifer Bradley



Senator Jennifer Bradley has been a friend to Florida's wood and wood products industry since her election in 2020. During her first term in the Senate, Senator Bradley served as vice-chair of the Senate

Agriculture Committee and on the Appropriations Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources. She worked alongside then President Wilton Simpson to update Florida's Right to Farm Laws and she also was a vocal supporter to increase funding for the Rural and Family Lands Program.

More recently, Senator Bradley was a key supporter on the historic agriculture and timber relief legislation which was passed during the Special Session following Hurricane Idalia.

Senator Bradley, whose Senate district comprises a significant part of Florida's "wood belt", continues to be a champion of a broad range of issues for Florida's forestry industry, a vocal proponent for the Florida Forest Service and a common-sense voice for probusiness and agricultural-friendly policy.

The Florida Forestry Association sincerely appreciates the strong relationship we have developed with Senator Bradley. We are pleased to recognize her for the hard work, dedication and services on behalf of the men and women of Florida's wood and wood products industry.

Representative Stan McClain



Finishing his term in the Florida House of Representatives, Representative Stan McClain has been a friend and champion throughout his tenure in the Florida House. He has served on the Ways and Means Committee

for most of his time in the Legislature, including the previous two years as the Chair. In addition, he spent a term on the prominent State Affairs Committee.

Time and again, Representative McClain has demonstrated his support for the wood and wood products industry through his support of legislation strengthening property rights, making needed updates to the Right to Farm Act, and working on sales tax and other fiscal policy issues which have benefited industry businesses, specifically those impacted by Hurricane Idalia.

It is for these and many more reasons that the Florida Forestry Association recognized Representative McClean's hard work and tireless efforts on behalf of the men and women of Florida forestry.

Above & Beyond: Jared Beauchamp and Zach Butler of the Florida Forest Service



Jared Beauchamp has worked for the Florida Service Forest since 2005. He graduated from the University of Florida School of Forest Resources in 2012 and

took on the duties of County Forester. He currently serves Lafayette, Dixie, and Taylor Counties in the Perry District, and has since discovered a special passion for assisting landowners and mentoring students in the FFA forestry discipline. When not wearing his Florida Forest Service uniform, Jared spends his time leatherworking and tending to the family farm.



Zach Butler has worked for the Florida Forest Service since 2018. He serves as the County Forester of Madison County in the Perry District. Zach graduated from the University of Florida School

of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences in 2018. Zach too has a special passion for mentoring students in FFA in both the land judging and forestry disciplines.

During the Hurricane Idalia Silviculture Recovery Program application period, these two gentlemen helped 216 landowners submit applications requesting a total of more than \$20 million to reforest almost 18,000 acres in the impacted area. Thanks to them, forestland that was devastated by Idalia can be replanted. They offered hope and help at a very difficult time.



Distinguished Service Award: Dan Roach

Dan began his career with Rayonier in 1979 as a technical forester. He steadily moved up the ranks, ultimately retiring as the manager of forest environmental systems,

based right down the road in the company's office in Fernandina Beach.

He was responsible for all forest environmental related activities throughout the eastern US. He managed forest sustainability implementation and worked with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). And he assisted in policy related to environmental and regulatory issues at the federal, state and local levels.

For the Association, he has always willingly served as a walking encyclopedia on all things forestry. His knowledge of forestry runs both wide and deep, and he is always there to help. His expertise has been invaluable when dealing with BMPs (Best Management Practices), the ESA (endangered species act), TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) ... and the rest of the regulatory alphabet.

No matter the issue, Dan has always been willing and able to dive in on the Association's behalf. He is a respected voice for the industry, and he is known for his reasoned approach. He is a trusted and valued resource. In his quiet and steady way, he has been both a guardian and a warrior, protecting and advancing Florida forestry throughout his career.



Jon Gould Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award: Floyd Vanzant

Floyd Vanzant's property has been in the family since the early 1800's and has historically been used for timber and livestock production. Currently,

the property is owned by Mr. Vanzant and his wife Mary and is estimated to contain about 400 acres.

Floyd has increasingly become more involved in the timber aspect of the management of his property.

Over the past several years he has become interested in silvopasture. His property has been used recently for a silvopasture workshop conducted by the Florida Forest Service and sponsored by the Florida Tree Farm Association.

Over the years, Floyd has contributed to his community and forestry as he has served as a county commissioner, Hilliard Town Council member, Mayor of Hilliard, and as a county Farm Bureau board member since 1997. He is now serving as the Vice President. In the past, he has also served on the Forestry Committee with the Farm Bureau.

He participates in and is certified in the Florida Forest Service's Forest Stewardship program. His property is also certified as a Tree Farm.

Active management of his property has led Floyd to take advantage of various cost share programs to assist him in reforesting harvested areas or afforesting additional acres on his property. He is also mindful of water quality, best management practices, and wildlife on his property.

Floyd takes his role as a good steward of his property very seriously and believes that multiple use land management enhances sustainability of timber, livestock, water quality, wildlife, and recreation.

Florida's Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award honors the memory and legacy of Mr. Jon Gould, a respected member of Florida's Tree Farm Program State Committee and a proud Tree Farmer and advocate for forestry for more than 30 years throughout the Southeast.

We hope you will plan to join us for the 2025 Annual Meeting at the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, August 26-28, 2025!



2024 Membership Contest

Every \$1 in dues generated = 1 point Example: Friend of Forestry member @ \$70 = 70 points

The recruiter with the most points (250 minimum) on 12.31.24 wins!

Prize: \$250 Visa Gift card compliments of

Contact Whitney Hough (Whitney@FLForestry.org) for details.



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Many thanks to our new members who joined this quarter and also to the people who recruited them!

Ballintober Hunt Club Ballintober, LLC **Bulls Bay Hunt Club** Comer, David Crozier, William Diefenbach, Elke Don Mar Hurst LLC Hargus, Greg Hipp Farms, LLC Hutchinson, Hagan Jenkins, David John Lott, Trustee Little Hilton MIC 4649 Loges, Marilyn **Mueller Hunt Club** Nazworth, Bry Pelaez, Bonnie Rivas, Jamie Rowe, Donna T & C Investment Inc T.G. Gandy, Jr. Hunt Terry, Carol The AGL Group Thomas, Jean Tree Marshall LLC Wheeler, David Williams, Cale

FLORIDA FOREST LAND VIDEO SERIES FOR LANDOWNERS



The Florida Forest Service, Florida Forestry Association, the University of Florida (UF), and filmmakers from Untamed Science collaborated to create a new "My Florida Forest Land" video series.

The goal of this series is to help Florida landowners learn about management tools and practices that improve their forest lands.

You can watch the videos at MyFLForest.land. New videos will continue to be released.

HURRICANES HELENE AND MILTON



The Florida Forest Service has released its preliminary timber damage assessment from Hurricane Helene. The storm is estimated to have damaged almost 8.9 million tons of timber at a value of more than \$114 million.

Read the full report at bit.ly/FFSHelenedamage.

"Hurricane Helene demonstrated how forestland that members have invested money, time, and work into for decades can be damaged in a matter of moments," said Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. "Immediately after the storm, Association leadership and staff began engaging with policy- and decisionmakers on every level to help initiate the recovery process."

"We continue to work closely with the Florida Forest Service, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and state and national legislators to secure funding and policy solutions for forest recovery efforts," he said. "We are giving 100% to make sure that impacted producers have access to critical recovery resources."

We have compiled a list of current resources to help with relief and recovery efforts. The list will be updated as more resources for Hurricanes Helene and Milton become available. Find it at bit.ly/FFA hurricane resources.

GET ENGAGED



The success of any organization is highly dependent on an engaged m e m b e r s h i p.

An easy and effective way to be active in the Association is through our committees: Government Relations, TREEPAC, Environmental, Steering and Communications. To learn more about the Association's committees and their missions, please visit the Association's website at FLForestry.org/Resources/ Programs/AssociationCommittees.

DON'T MISS OUT!



Do we have your contact information?

We want to make sure that all our members are receiving all the benefits of belonging! If you are not currently receiving our electronic communications, please reach out to our Director of Membership, Whitney Hough (Whitney@FLForestry.org) with your email address. Don't miss out on all the Association's news, information, and events!



You must take a class by December 31, 2024, for your certification to stay current. Our final class of the year will be held Thursday, December 5, beginning at 8AM EDT via Zoom. To register, go to the Master Logger option under the SFI tab at FLForestry.org.

WEBSITE NEWS



We are excited to announce the launch of our redesigned website! It's an eye-catching new look at the same familiar address -- **FLForestry.org**.

- ✓ Fantastic visuals
- ✓ Easy navigation
- ✓ Information and resources you need
- ✓ Simple ways to pay online
- ✓ Master Logger search tool
- ✓ And so much more!

The improved site provides an easy way to pay your membership dues online with no sign-in required. Simply have your dues invoice and a credit card handy. Click on the "Pay Membership Dues" button at the top of the home page. Fill out a simple form. And you're done!

This new and improved platform is just one example of our commitment to enhancing your membership experience. Dive in and explore the wealth of features designed to empower and support our forestry community!

HUNTING FOR WAYS TO SAVE?



Partnering with Outdoor Underwriters, Inc., the Association offers our members special reduced rates for liability insurance for hunting leases and timberland. For more information, please contact Brittany Varn (850.222.5646 or Brittany@FLForestry.org).

FLORIDA FORESTS WEEK



Florida Forests Week, a statewide awareness campaign, was observed October 20-26, 2024. Activities included a variety of tours, school visits, media submissions, social media posts and much more.

Special thanks to Commissioner Wilton Simpson and his team at the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services for their official proclamation celebrating Florida Forests Week!

Our members created this awareness campaign in 2015 and continue to make it successful today. Each year it grows bigger and better. We appreciate everyone who participated. We could not do it without you!



WHEREAS, Florida's forests and forest-related industries are vital for today's living and tomorrow's needs and cover 17.3 million acres, which represents almost half of Florida's total land area; and

WHEREAS, Florida's forests help protect valuable natural areas from the threat of conversion to other uses such as development, and provide numerous environmental and ecosystem benefits such as improved air quality and abundant wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the presence of healthy, sustainable forests is vital for the protection and conservation of Florida's water resources; and

WHEREAS, forests provide societal benefits such as plentiful green spaces for beauty and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Florida's forests are carefully and professionally managed to provide timber products while sustaining and protecting renewable forest resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Florida's working forests generate \$25 billion in economic activity annually, help provide jobs for more than 124,000 Floridians and provide materials for more than 5,000 types of consumer goods.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wilton Simpson, Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Florida do hereby declare the week of October 20 through October 26, 2024, as

FLORIDA FORESTS WEEK

in the State of Florida and congratulate forest owners and forestry practitioners who grow, harvest and replant healthy trees in order to protect and maintain Florida's forests for present and future generations.



www.FLForestry.org