

NEW LOOK FOR A NEW CENTURY



In honor of our centennial anniversary, the Association has a new look to take us into our next 100 years! We are proud of our past, working hard in the present, and looking forward to the future. Most of all, we are grateful for our members, sponsors, and partners from all arenas who have made our continuing success possible. **Here's to the next 100 years!**

2023 ANNUAL MEETING & TRADE SHOW

The Association celebrated its 100th anniversary at the 2023 Annual Meeting & Trade Show, August 29-31, at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. Highlights included a slate of excellent speakers, multiple networking events, a live version added to our traditional silent auction, and a memorable close-out performance by the Swingin' Medallions.

One of our favorite parts of the Annual Meeting is honoring some of our best and brightest. This year's award-winners are featured below:



Distinguished Service Award: Jim Cottingham

The Association's Distinguished Service Award celebrates those leaders whose lifetime achievements have positively impacted the trajectory of the Association.

Now retired, Jim Cottingham's resume of service to the Association is long and distinguished. Jim is known for his visionary leadership as well as his hard work.

Jim is credited with bringing Log A Load for Children to Florida. The Log a Load For Kids Foundation program raises funds to improve children's health through treatment, education and research at Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals and other local children's hospitals. Thanks to Jim's initiative in bringing the program to Florida as well as his work with fundraising events on their behalf, nearly \$2.5 million has been raised to date! An untold number of children and their families have had access to medical care that otherwise would not have been possible.

Jim also initiated the Association's first Silent Auction more than thirty years ago. While the silent auction provides an element of fun to the meeting, it is also an important fundraiser for the Association. Its proceeds enable the Association to grow and to offer more programs and services to members.

Jim served on the Executive Committee under several presidents. He was chair of the Tree Farm Committee at one point, but he is more notably known for his work as Chair of the Steering Committee. In fact, his efforts in that position were so successful that when term limits were about to kick in and mandate a change in leadership, his colleagues on the Executive Committee voted to change the by-laws to allow for him to continue to serve! Jim, as always, graciously accepted the opportunity ... and all the work that came with it.

Jim's career was as remarkable as his volunteer efforts. In 1980 he moved from Georgia to Panama City and worked with Southwest Forest Industries. He worked there for over 41 years for five different companies who purchased the mill over the years, ultimately retiring from WestRock as the Regional Manager in 2021.

Jim and his wife Cindy have three children and four grandchildren. All of the grandkids live within minutes of Jim and Cindy's house. Jim is spending his retirement babysitting, doing yard work, golfing, and traveling. Because Jim's work ethic is as strong as ever, even in retirement he manages two family farms in South Carolina.



Above and Beyond Award: Zachary (Zak) Seymour

The Association's Above & Beyond award recognizes those who can usually be found going the extra mile... those who become the "go-to" person in any group they join... those whose service and commitment to the Association is always a step beyond what is expected.

Without a doubt, Zak Seymour embodies the spirit of the Above & Beyond award. A longtime employee of Farm Credit of Florida, he is an active member of the Association's Board of Directors and Steering Committee, as well as a graduate of its Forestry Forward leadership program.

Zak is a familiar face to all in the forestry family and can always be found offering a helping hand wherever needed.

In fact, Zak's involvement in the Association can be traced back to an Annual Meeting many years ago. It was Thursday night after all the festivities were finished. The staff was packing and loading up the van, and Zak asked, "Hey, what can I do to help?" Not only did he help that night, but he is now instrumental in the annual firearm raffle and silent auction, as well as being involved in the Annual Meeting planning process. When Zak Seymour offers to help, he means it.

Zak has put his heart, soul, creativity, and even his cooking skills into his efforts on behalf of the Association. He has made it a family affair as well, convincing his wife Sloane to join him in emceeing the Trade Show Social in years past.

Zak is very much a family man. When he manages to have some free time, he enjoys spending it with Sloane and their 10-year-old son.



Legislator of the Year (Senate): Senator Jay Collins

Advocacy is at the heart of all that the Association does. The Legislator of the Year award honors those lawmakers who have proven to be champions for Florida forestry in the state capitol.

A decorated veteran, Senator Collins was elected to the Florida Senate in 2022. He was appointed chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee as a freshman. As chair, Senator Collins hit the ground running holding several committee meetings to highlight damage from Hurricane Ian and to have producers outline challenges agricultural producers face in Florida. As a result, Chair Collins worked closely with Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson and the industry to champion several pieces of legislation.

Chair Collins was the Senate sponsor of the FARM TEAM card which is designed to streamline the process for receiving the agricultural sales tax exemptions. In addition, Chair Collins was the Senate lead on legislation which prohibits local governments from collecting any special assessments on agricultural lands.

These are but a few highlights of the many issues Chair Collins championed on behalf of Florida's agricultural and silviculture industries. It is clear Chair Collins has a bright future fighting for agriculture in the Florida Senate.

continued on next page>



Legislator of the Year (House): Representative Kaylee Tuck

Representative Kaylee Tuck comes by her love of agriculture honestly. She was born and raised in an agricultural family which grew everything from caladiums to citrus.

Since being elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2020, Representative Tuck has been a strong advocate for Florida Agriculture. Her leadership was once again on display during the 2023 legislative session as she championed legislation which was the foundation for the preemption of special assessments of agricultural lands.

Although coming up short on the last day of session, Rep. Tuck spent many hours working on legislation which would enable agricultural producers to construct farm working housing on agricultural lands. In addition, the legislation also would have created further clarity and protection for the agricultural lands property tax classification (Greenbelt).



National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year: Doug and Teresa Moore

Doug and Teresa Moore are owners of the beautiful 2,400-acre South Prong Plantation in Baker County, FL. They were previously recognized as the Florida Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year and are now award winners on the national level.

After dairying in Jacksonville for more than 30 years, Doug and Teresa bought 2400 acres of timberland in Baker County and fulfilled their dream of owning a large tract of timberland. Doug began to attend any educational programs provided by UF extension services, Florida Forest Service, and others. One of the first classes he attended was to become a Certified Prescribed Burn Manager. He became one of the founding members and director of the North Florida Prescribed Burn Association.

The Moores are well respected for their successful integration of timber and wildlife management and generously share their expertise with others. They are engaged with the Tree Farm System, the Association, the Florida Forest Service and other groups and agencies, promoting better forest management practices



Jon Gould Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year: Terry and Howard Putnam (in memoriam)

The Putnals' tree farm operation exemplifies The American Tree Farm's four critical points of light – Wood, Water, Recreation, and Wildlife.

Howard Putnal originally purchased the land in the early 1980s and it has been a Florida Certified Tree Farm for nearly 40 years. Over 350 of their 493 acres are enrolled in the Florida Tree Farm Program. Howard

always aspired to be the Florida Tree Farmer of the Year, but sadly passed away just over a year ago. Terry Putnal is very proud to manage the property in accordance with his father's vision and honors the management decisions that he and his father developed together. Terry has ensured his father's legacy will continue by confirming that his nephew is familiar with their forest and wildlife management plans.

Terry's land management strategy is a great example of how to responsibly use forestry practices "in the right place" to meet economic goals. Guided by his father's passion for forestry, Terry provides a positive impact to fellow forest owners and is very worthy of this honor.

MILL CLOSURE

Georgia-Pacific announced in September that it will be permanently closing its Foley Cellulose Mill in Perry, FL. The closure will affect all of the mill's 525 workers. Officials said that a number of factors went into the decision, saying it was made prior to Hurricane Idalia but that the storm complicated the situation because of impacts to the mill's equipment.

"While Georgia-Pacific cannot make the numbers work for their corporation, they are willing sellers," Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson said. "As a state leader, I would welcome another investor or company to come in and take over operations. There are many economic incentives available, and Florida has an excellent climate for business. I challenge anyone to find harder working people than those in Taylor and surrounding counties."

FLORIDA FORESTS WEEK

Florida Forests Week, a statewide awareness campaign, was observed October 22-28, 2023. Activities included a variety of tours, school visits, media submissions, social media posts and much more!

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

2023 MEMBERSHIP CONTEST



The 2023 Membership Contest is in full swing. Our friends at FLAG Credit Union, a division of Bay Credit Union, are giving a \$250 Visa Gift card to the top recruiter for the 2023 calendar year.

Every \$1 in dues generated = 1 point
Example: Friend of Forestry member @ \$70 = 70 points
The recruiter with the most points (250 minimum) on 12.31.23 wins!

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



HURRICANE IDALIA RELIEF AND RECOVERY

Hurricane Idalia made landfall as a high-end Category 3 near Keaton Beach, FL, on the morning of August 29, 2023. The 125-mph sustained winds and heavy rain that came with it ripped through forests in the Big Bend area, with Taylor County taking the most direct impact. According to the Florida Forest Service's initial assessment report, the storm is estimated to have damaged more than 289,000 acres of timber at a value of \$64,751,255.

"For this part of the state in particular – which relies heavily on the timber industry – more than \$64 million worth of damaged timber shows just how devastating Hurricane Idalia was, and this does not take into account any potential future harm or disease that could come to remaining timber stands," said Commissioner Wilton Simpson. "Due to the decades-long investment between the time of planting to harvesting, these communities will not only need immediate support but also long-term solutions to recover. I will continue working with local, state, and federal partners to ensure that impacted producers have access to the recovery resources they deserve."

Commissioner Simpson has announced a \$2 million legislative budget request to directly support reforestation efforts for Florida's timber landowners severely impacted by Hurricane Idalia. Should the Florida Legislature fund this request, the additional funding will be used to support timber landowners with the initial cost of site preparation, seedlings, and the planting of seedlings.

This \$2 million request would be in addition to a request for \$4 million for Florida's Future Forests Program in the 2023-2024 state budget. The program offers landowners cost-share payments to help increase the acreage of Florida's healthy forests, which provide clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, recreation, and thousands of essential products. The program is open to non-industrial, private landowners, local governments, and registered nonprofit organizations and grants are provided on a lottery basis.

The Association has created a resource page for those impacted by the hurricane on its website, FLForestry.org. The page features information on available assistance, resources, and recovery information on federal and state levels.



WANT MORE BUCKS?

Saving money is always a good thing! Partnering with Outdoor Underwriters, Inc., the Association offers our members special reduced rates for liability insurance for hunting leases and timberland. Contact our office for more information (850.222.5646 or Info@FLForestry.org).

CABINET RESOLUTION HONORING THE ASSOCIATION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

State Of Florida

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Florida Forestry Association was founded in 1923 to educate the people of Florida and the Legislature to the need of protecting and developing the great natural resources that lay in the state's vast forest acreage; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Forestry Association represents all segments of Florida's forest community, providing strength and unity for its members and promoting the economic and environmental benefits that forestry provides; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Forestry Association was instrumental in the establishment of the Florida Forest Service, the School of Forestry at the University of Florida (later renamed as the UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences) and the Columbia Ranger School in Lake City; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Forestry Association has actively engaged in the development and implementation of Best Management Practices for silviculture and wildlife as well as championed the practice of prescribed fire and other vital sustainability measures; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Forestry Association has changed the landscape of Florida forestry, initiating and supporting research efforts, workforce programs, and educational outreach; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Forestry Association acts as the voice of Florida forestry on local, state and national levels, providing leadership, education, and training for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Forestry Association continues to expand the mission and vision set forth by its founders, protecting and promoting the viability and sustainability of Florida forestry.

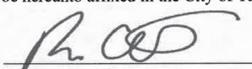
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida do hereby recognize the 30th day of August, 2023, as

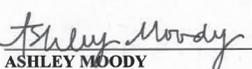
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

and thank members past, present, and future for their collective efforts to sustainably grow, harvest, utilize, and replant healthy trees in order to protect and maintain Florida's forests.

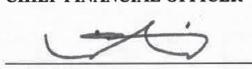
WHEREFORE, the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Official Seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the City of Tallahassee on the 22nd day of August, 2023.




RON DESANTIS
 GOVERNOR


ASHLEY MOODY
 ATTORNEY GENERAL


JIMMY PATRONIS
 CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER


WILTON SIMPSON
 COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

FORESTRY FORWARD

Congratulations to the members of Forestry Forward Class 13 for successfully completing the Association's leadership program! We appreciate your commitment to forestry and look forward to seeing the difference each of you will make in the future of Florida forestry.

Richard Bertrand
Vulcan On-Board Scales

William McCrea
Legacy Wildlife Services – NRPS Inc.

Jeremiah Thompson
SVN Saunders Real Estate

Bryan Camposano
Florida Forest Service

JT McUmbert
Utah Park Service

William White
West Fraser, Inc.

Milli Jones Fiorelli
AgAmerica Lending

Blake Reese
American Forest Management, Inc.

Shawn Lewandowski
Florida Forest Service

Aaron Smith
Four Rivers Land & Timber, LLC

And congratulations also to the incoming members of Class 14! It is going to be an exciting two years!

Shayn Baggett
Farm Credit of Northwest Florida

Michael Klassen
Florida Forest Service

Andrew Sims
UF/IFAS

Harrison Fahy
Nutrien Ag Solutions

Jason Nastovski
Natural Resource Planning Services, Inc.

Patrick Smalley
Usher Land and Timber, Inc.

Marshall Hilton
F4 Tech

James Rhue
Pritchett Trucking, Inc.

Shea Stroud
Deseret Cattle & Timber

Andy Lamborn
Florida Forest Service

Jesse A. Saarela
Natural Resource Planning Services, Inc.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

As we embark on a new century, we remain grateful to all those who have made these past 100 years possible: our members! We are excited to welcome these businesses and individuals who have joined us in the past few months:

Allen, Sean

Heritage Family Holdings LTD

Preston, James

Alvin R. Barry - Trustee

J & S McLaughlin Family

Raulerson, John

Bennett, Samuel

Jimmys Hunt Club

Roberts, James

Bielling, Jeffery

Johnson, William

Roper, Tyler

Centerpoint

K Ranch

Saarela, Jesse

Conner, Franklin

Kurus, Chris

Shelton, Grady

Core Ecology Group

LeNeave, Sam

Smalley, Patrick

Cox, Jeffrey

Lewis, Greg

Stalnaker, Chad

David Michael Piatt as Trustee of Trust

Lynniam Farms

Stalnaker, Chad & Cailyn

Feagle Farms

McNeill-Walker LLC

Sunland Pines, LLC

Gooski Hunt Club

MOSSBURG Farms LLC

Swisher, Jay

Hart, Jennifer

Nastovski, Jason

T & T Cattle

Head & Boyd Hunting Club

Noles Properties LLC

Wright, Donna

Henry, Sarah

Otter Creek PWP Farm LLC

Parker, Gerald

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Contact Whitney Hough for details:
850.222.5646 or Whitney@FLForestry.org



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