

Spring/Summer 2022

FLORIDAFORESTS

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Taking the Hill:

A Legislative Review

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN: WEDGWORTH &
THE ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING A FORESTRY INNOVATOR

RELAMPAGO BLIGHT: A NEW TREE PATHOGEN

FFGS: CELEBRATING 85 YEARS



BEARD
EQUIPMENT CO.



768L-II
Bogie Skidder

Beard Equipment Company is your source for the full line of John Deere forestry equipment.
Purpose-built to handle the toughest jobs in forest environments.

800-848-8563 | beardequipment.com

**Jacksonville | Lake City | Palatka | Ocala | Perry | Tallahassee
Freeport | Panama City | Pensacola | Mobile, AL**



Blanton's

LONGLEAF CONTAINER NURSERY

MADISON • FLORIDA

850-973-2967 PH & FAX

blantonsnursery@earthlink.net

SINCE 2001, THE LARGEST
PRIVATELY OWNED
PRODUCER OF
CONTAINERIZED PINE
SEEDLINGS IN THE STATE
OF FLORIDA.

GROWERS OF 6" PREMIER
CONTAINERIZED PINE SEEDLINGS

*Improved & Natural Stand Longleaf
Advanced Generation Slash & Loblolly*



LOCATED IN NORTH FLORIDA ONLY MINUTES FROM VALDOSTA, GA & I-75

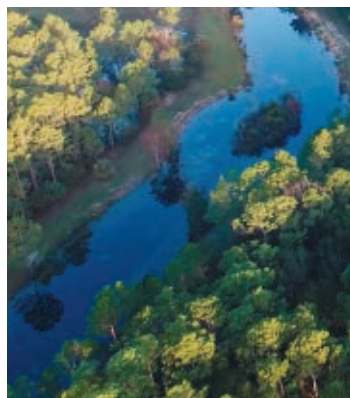
C.J. (JAY) BLANTON III
850-566-1884

JASON M. BLANTON
850-566-7175

FLORIDAFORESTS

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Volume 26, Issue 1
Spring/Summer 2022



Scott DeBerry

Features

8 **TAKING THE HILL:** **A LEGISLATIVE REVIEW**

As the 285 bills passed during the 2022 Florida legislative session move to Governor Ron DeSantis' office for final approval, Florida Forestry Association lobbyist Jim Spratt dives into the results of the legislation and the impacts to Florida and the state's forestry industry.

16 **A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN: WEDGWORTH & THE ASSOCIATION HAVE A 25-YEAR HISTORY TOGETHER**

Alumni of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources share how their two years in the program expanded their thinking and their service to forestry.

19 **CELEBRATING A FORESTRY INNOVATOR**

Honoring his contributions to Florida agriculture and his passion for forestry, the Association salutes Professor Emeritus Dr. Wayne Smith of the UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries & Geomatics Sciences, and his induction into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame.

21 **RELAMPAGO BLIGHT: A NEW TREE PATHOGEN FOUND IN FLORIDA**

A new and unusual fungus, found in the forested areas of several Florida counties, is affecting an array of woody plant species, including hardwoods, grapevines and citrus, prompting a new partnership with the Florida Forest Service and the Florida Division of Plant Industry.

23 **CELEBRATING 85 YEARS OF THE UF/IFAS SCHOOL OF FOREST, FISHERIES & GEOMATICS SCIENCES**

Since 1937, the School of Forest, Fisheries & Geomatics Sciences staff and faculty have been generating world-changing ideas propelling the University of Florida toward global excellence.



FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- 4** Executive Outlook
- 5** President's Message
- 25** Noteworthy
- 28** Product & Services Showcase
- 29** Classifieds
- 30** Index of Advertisers

Florida Forests is an official publication of the Florida Forestry Association
Phone: 850-222-5646
info@FLForestry.org
www.FLForestry.org

Executive Editor
Lee Ann Fisch
Florida Forestry Association
Director of Communications

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

Florida Forests is published biannually by
NAYLOR
ASSOCIATION SOLUTIONS
550 SW 2nd Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601
Phone: 800-369-6220
www.naylor.com

Account Manager: Claire Brimmer
Project Manager: Krys Whildin
Content: Michelle Harris
Marketing: Kiana Gonzales
Project Administrator: Alyssa Woods
Publication Leader: Krys Whildin

Advertising Representatives:
Ryan Griffin, Shane Holt, Ken Kepler,
Susan Maracle, Beth Palmer, Chris Zabel

Layout and Design:
Deb Churchill | Print 2.0h!

Please support the advertisers who made this publication possible.

The Florida Forestry Association is not engaged in legal, accounting, financial or other professional counseling. Readers are cautioned to contact their professional advisors for advice. Florida Forestry Association simply gathers information from various sources to keep their membership informed.

© 2022 Naylor Association Solutions
All rights reserved. The contents of this publication may not be reproduced by any means, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the publisher.

PUBLISHED JUNE 2022/FOR-B0122/7508
Cover image: Scott DeBerry



IN ADDITION TO OUR TRADITIONAL RECEPTIONS, THIS YEAR WE ARE HOSTING A BRAND-NEW EVENT: THE WOMEN OF FORESTRY NETWORKING BRUNCH.

Annual Meeting Is Just Around the Corner

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

ANNUAL MEETING 2022 is on the horizon! Please mark your calendars now for August 30-September 1 and plan to join us at the Omni Amelia Island Resort in beautiful Amelia Island, FL.

The Amelia Omni is a longtime favorite among our members. Very nice accommodations, excellent ocean views, a separate conference center within easy walking distance, and several eating and entertainment options on property make it a great place to stay for a social group like ours.

As always, we have booked a full slate of topnotch speakers representing the best in their fields. They will cover a wide variety of topics: federal programs, forest mensuration, market forecasts, taxes, tortoises, tree genetics and trucking regulations.

Networking is, of course, a key part of every Annual Meeting. In addition to our traditional receptions, this year we are hosting a brand-new event: the Women of Forestry Networking Brunch. This will provide women who work in forestry – as well as the spouses of men who do – the opportunity to create positive connections in a casual and fun environment.

Anyone who enjoys their networking on a golf course should register for the Timber Toppers Golf Classic. The Omni's Oak Marsh course is a classic, designed by golf legend Pete Dye himself. Meandering along salt creeks and through Amelia Island's famous heritage oaks, the course is a perfect fit for both serious golfers and those who just want to enjoy a morning out with friends and associates.

We also have another solid line-up of exhibitors this year for our trade show. This is a perfect chance for exhibitors

showcasing their products and services and connect with existing and potential clients. It's a great place to learn more about all the technological advances that have been made in the past year and to see everything that is currently being offered, all under one roof. One-stop shopping at its best.

The silent auction is another perennial favorite. Hunting trips, vacation stays, forestry memorabilia, equipment, books, decorations, jewelry ... you never know what fantastic finds will be waiting for you there.

The firearm raffle has quickly grown in popularity as well. You get one ticket per \$20 donation or six for \$100. One lucky winner will take their pick from a selection of equally great options. The drawing will be held on September 1. You don't have to be present to win, but it's more fun if you are!

While our staff works very hard to make this the best event possible for our members, we would not be able to pull it off without the support and generosity of our sponsors. They deserve a big show of thanks for their part in the success of this event.

If you are interested in sponsoring, exhibiting, donating to the silent auction or buying raffle tickets, please contact our director of member services, Whitney Hough (850.222.5646 or Whitney@FLForestry.org)

To register for the meeting or book your hotel room online, please visit the Annual Meeting tab on our website, FLForestry.org. You can find a list of current sponsors, exhibitors, auction donors and more there as well.

I look forward to seeing you all in Amelia Island! •



I'M ALSO EXCITED ABOUT A SMALLER BUT IMPORTANT MILESTONE THIS YEAR: JUNE 21-24 IS THE RETURN OF THE FLORIDA FORESTRY TEACHERS TOUR!

Forever Honored

By **CARLTON JONES**, Florida Forestry Association President

IT IS HARD to believe that my term as president is almost over. These past two years have gone quickly, but they have been full of productive change.

I am proud of what we have accomplished. Overall, we have taken obstacles and worked to make them opportunities. To me, that demonstrates the resilience and determination of our industry, our association and our members. We have not only kept our industry strong during a worldwide pandemic that threatened both health and economy, but we have also helped others keep their doors open.

Specifically, we had another successful legislative session, which you will read about in *Taking the Hill*, later in this issue. We have created a task force to find feasible solutions to ongoing workforce shortages. We have worked with state and federal agencies to clear barriers that make it difficult for landowners impacted by Hurricane Michael to receive needed disaster recovery assistance. We have initiated ideas to improve internal programs while also strengthening ties with external partners. We have ramped up telling the forestry story by releasing videos and making strides to increase our social media presence. Those are just the visible tip of a very large iceberg.

As excited as I am about our past accomplishments, I am also looking forward to what the future holds. On September 1, at the President's Dinner at our Annual Meeting in Amelia Island, I officially hand over the reins of the Association to my very good friend, fellow FSU and ATO fraternity brother, Jimmy Bielling. I have no doubt the

Association's good works will continue and flourish under his leadership!

Jimmy will have the honor of being president as the Association celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2023. To commemorate that special occasion, we are in the process of developing a new logo for the Association – we hope the design will both honor our roots and point our way forward. I'm very excited about this project and all that it signifies. We are also making plans to mark the occasion at our 2023 Annual Meeting in Sandestin.

I'm also excited about a smaller but important milestone this year: June 21-24 is the return of the Florida Forestry Teachers Tour! The 2020 and 2021 tours had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns, so this 2022 tour seems especially significant. The team that plans and hosts the tours, the sponsors who make it possible for the teachers to attend at no cost, and the teachers themselves, are all eager to bring back this important event. Kudos go to the Florida Forest Service for all their efforts to not only reinstate the tour but to make it better than ever!

If these two years have gone by in a flash, I'm certain the next two months will go even faster. I'm proud the Association does not believe in "lame ducks" and am looking forward to finishing my term strong. We still have much to accomplish. You have my pledge that our leadership and staff will never stop working to keep the Association – and Florida forestry – at the very top of its game, no matter what comes our way.

I will forever be honored, humbled and grateful to have served as president of this extraordinary association. •



FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

2022
ANNUAL
MEETING &
TRADE SHOW

Connection. Information. Innovation.

**AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1
OMNI AMELIA ISLAND RESORT
AMELIA ISLAND, FLORIDA**

SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2022

10:00 AM–5:00 PM: Trade Show/Silent Auction Set-Up

5:30 PM–7:00 PM: Registrant Reception/Exhibitor Meet & Greet

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022

8:00 AM–1:00 PM: Timber Toppers Golf Classic Shotgun Start

10:00 AM–11:30 AM: Women of Forestry Networking Brunch

10:00 AM–7:00 PM: Trade Show & Silent Auction Open

10:00 AM–12:00 PM: Breakout Sessions

2:00 PM–3:45 PM: General Session

4:00 PM–5:00 PM: Board Meeting

5:30 PM–7:00 PM: Welcome Reception/Exhibitor Meet & Greet

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

8:00 AM–10:00 AM: Awards Breakfast

10:00 AM–4:00 PM: Trade Show & Silent Auction Open

10:15 AM–11:45 AM: General Session

11:45 AM–1:15 PM: Master Logger Lunch

1:30 PM–2:30 PM: General Session

2:30 PM–4:00 PM: Trade Show Social

5:00 PM–6:00 PM: Dinner Reception

6:00 PM–7:00 PM: President's Dinner

7:00 PM–9:00 PM: President's Reception

*For information on registration, speakers, sponsorships & more,
visit FLForestry.org/Annual-Meeting*



TAKING THE HILL:

A LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

By **JIM SPRATT**, Magnolia Strategies LLC



Association lobbyist Jim Spratt reviews results from the 2022 legislative session.

IT IS CLEAR THE FORESTRY INDUSTRY RELIES ON ALL ASPECTS IN ORDER TO OPERATE, AND IT'S IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST TO MAKE SURE THAT WOOD MOVES SMOOTHLY FROM THE FORESTS TO THE MILL.

OF THE 3,685 bills filed during the 2022 session, 285 bills passed the legislature and await action by Governor Ron DeSantis. On the budget front, the legislature passed a record-setting \$112.1 billion budget, the largest in state history. In addition, the legislature added \$8.9 billion total aggregated funding to the state reserve fund. The breakdown on reserve funding is as follows: \$5.3 billion in Unallocated General Revenue; \$3.1 billion in the Budget Stabilization Fund; and \$0.5 billion in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund.

BUDGET

Let's kick off the budget update with funding initiatives at the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). The Association and its members enjoy a strong partnership with IFAS, and we are always happy to help with their priority issues in Tallahassee. The legislature provided \$8.7 million to continue and expand upon the UF/IFAS Fertilizer Rate Study for several key Florida crops.

\$1.1 million for Forestry Education, an important program for Florida's forest industry, was retained within the UF/IFAS budget. In addition, the legislature provided \$1.1 million for geomatics funding and \$2 million for an Agricultural Ecosystems Services Project. These dollars are designed to use IFAS Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities to identify and determine values on myriad environmental/ecosystems benefits provided by agricultural lands.

Funding within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) is another key budget area for the Association and its members. Some of the highlights from the FDACS budget include \$35 million for the Office of Agriculture Water Policy for BMP implementation; \$1.5 million for Water; \$5 million for Lake Okeechobee Agricultural BMP projects; and \$100,000 for Operation Clean Sweep. Additionally, the legislature made the decision to invest a historic \$300 million for the Rural and Family Lands Program. Although there is specific budget language which holds

the dollars in reserves until January 2023, the significance of the investment shouldn't be lost.

Association members genuinely appreciate the strong working relationship we share with the Florida Forest Service. To this end, we appreciate the opportunity to assist with budget items where appropriate. Highlighting a few key budget items which were funded in the Florida Forest Services 2022-23 budget:

- 10 new positions for land acquisition activities;
- Increased wildland firefighter base pay from \$29,500 to \$41,600;
- \$17.1 million for wildfire protection/suppression equipment;
- \$26.4 million for replacement aircraft(s); and
- \$15 million for aerial protection equipment and program(s).

Lastly, in the wake of the wildfires which impacted Bay and Calhoun counties, the legislature added \$93 million for Emergency Wildfire Management.

The legislature also made a significant increase in their investment into agricultural marketing, including \$18 million for the Fresh from Florida program.

The budget also contains significant funding for water quality and restoration goals within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Highlights within FDEP'S budget include: \$75 million for Springs Restoration; \$2.5 million Florida Friendly Landscape Program (marketing, education and promotion); \$5 million for Red Tide Research and mitigation; \$352 million for Everglades Restoration; \$73 Million for Northern Everglades projects; \$65 million for C-51 Reservoir Palm Beach County; \$38 million for the Indian River Lagoon; \$125 million in Wastewater Grants; \$10 million for Septic Tank Upgrades; \$30 million for PFAS clean up; and, \$50 million for Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

POLICY ISSUES

While the Association followed a myriad of bills over the course of the session, we wish to highlight some of

the legislation that passed of particular interest to Florida forestry:

HB 7071 Taxation (Sen. Anna Maria Rodriguez/Rep. Bobby Payne): The omnibus tax package, which was largely held until the end of session, contained some new provisions for agricultural and silvicultural producers. Specifically, the bill further expanded the sales tax exemption on trailers used in agricultural production. In addition, the bill creates a sales tax exemption on

certain agricultural fencing materials, including barb wire and hog wire as well as the gates, posts, and other materials used to build and repair agricultural fences.

Note: As of this writing, this legislation is currently awaiting action from Governor DeSantis. Upon approval, the Department of Revenue (DOR) will most likely enter into rulemaking or at the very least create a Tax Information Sheet (TIP Sheet). To this end, the Association is preparing to

work with DOR to clarify how this new exemption will be implemented.

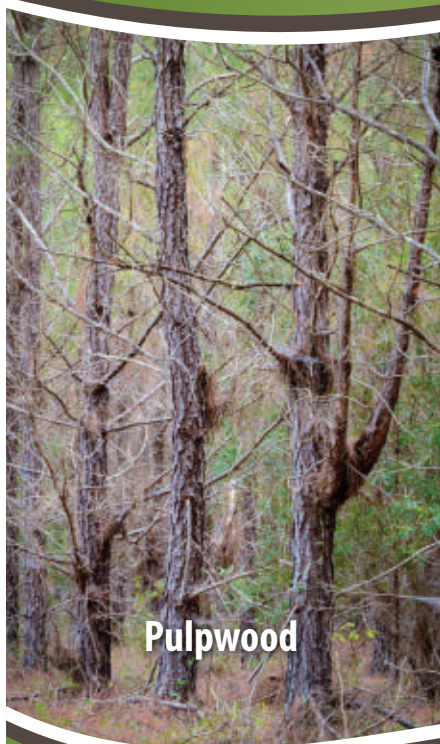
HB 323 Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) (Sen. Travis Hutson/Rep. Tyler Sirios): Highlights of the Gopher Tortoise (GT) language which passed in the final version of this bill include:

- Mandates that land managing agencies look at available lands if they haven't already and, if there is potential soil and habitat of at least 40 acres, assess both biological and economic feasibility, start-up and ongoing maintenance costs, and expected revenue;
- Allows GTs from private development to be relocated on public sites if there are no private sites available;
- Adds language to the Florida Forever Act specifically authorizing recipient sites and conservation banking on conservation easements;
- Requires FWC to update their permitting system so that it has more accurate real-time availability for recipient sites;
- Puts timeframes on requests for additional info and action on a complete application; and
- Requires FWC to submit a report which includes an update on federal listing status before next session.

HB 909 Contamination of Agricultural Lands (Sen. Ben Albritton/Rep. Bobby Payne): A priority for the Association and a broad array of other agricultural organizations, the legislation clarifies the role of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary to set the standards and procedures for all appropriate inquiries regarding normal and customary environmental site assessments.

The genesis of this legislation was action by a county environmental department which, in updating their site assessment guidance, made the misguided assumption that all agricultural lands should be treated as contaminated sites. This determination was made based largely on the fact agricultural lands use pesticides.

What's Your Financial Goal?



Pulpwood



Sawtimber / Poles

ArborGen MCP®

The **SEEDLING GENETICS** you **CHOOSE TODAY**
will **DETERMINE** your **INCOME** at harvest.

855.894.1702



ArborGen.com

This legislation will put everyone back into their appropriate lanes with regards to the customary process of environmental site assessments.

SB 2508 Environmental Resources (Appropriations Committee/Sen. Ben Albritton):

Although amended from its original text, SB 2508 remains our goal post for water supply and restoration in South Florida and specifically the Everglades. This legislation contains a host of provisions which are important to Association members and should be important to all Floridians.

As amended, the legislation:

- 1) Expands authority under Rural and Family Lands to include "fee simple" as well as less-than-fee acquisitions and creates a linkage between Rural and Family Lands and the Florida Wildlife Corridors;
- 2) Gives the Florida Department of Environmental protection the ability to contract with public entities to expedite Section 404 reviews;
- 3) Reenacts chapter 570.93 F.S. relating to agricultural irrigation systems cost-share programs;
- 4) Requires South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to certify that its recommendations to the Army Corp of Engineers do

not diminish the quality or quantity of water available to existing legal users and will continue to adapt to meet the needs of the restored natural system and requires water shortages within the Lake to be managed pursuant to rule in effect on January 1, 2022; and

- 5) Clarifies that specific funding for Everglades Restoration projects including the EAA Reservoir, Lake Okeechobee Restoration Project, C-43 Reservoir Project, and The Indian River Lagoon South project shall be authorized.

Wrapping this back to the budget, the changes to Rural and Family Lands come with a \$300 million investment into the program with the funds being available January 1, 2023.

SB 1186/ HB 717 Agritourism (Sen. Ben Albritton/Rep. Josie Tomkow):

This legislation makes two clarifications to Florida's Agritourism Law. First, the bill prohibits denial or revocation of the agricultural property tax classification solely on the basis of the underlying agritourism activity. Secondly, the bill creates specific guidance for the taxation of nonresidential structures which are integral to the farm or agritourism activity. The

bill further requires those nonresidential structures be assessed at the just value and added to the agricultural value of the land.

For a review of all our legislative highlights, please visit the Association's website at FLForestry.org. The wrap-up can be found under the Advocacy tab.

Every session has winners, losers and those who are still trying to find the exit doors. Now the real work begins as we work through bill action by Governor DeSantis as well as the issue of budget vetoes.

Additionally, the summer will be full of campaign events, campaign ads and the typical cadre of back-to-back-to-back ads on television and digital media outlets. While the onslaught is often mind-numbing, the real takeaway is there are new Senate and House districts, so the potential exists for you to have a new member of the legislature representing you after November. Take advantage of this election cycle to develop a relationship with the candidates! Furthermore, the entire cabinet is up for election, including the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Now is the time to develop the relationships and plant the seeds for future harvests!

FORESTRY DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Following the Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, January 19, Association leaders participated in the annual Forestry Day at the Capitol.

Highlights included being officially recognized by Senator Ben Albritton in the Senate gallery, meeting with Legislator of the Year award winner Representative Jayer Williamson as well as Representative Chuck Brannan and hearing the "inside scoop" on legislative issues and budget items from Association lobbyist Jim Spratt and UF/IFAS lobbyist Mary Ann Hooks.



Representative Jayer Williamson (left) accepts his Legislator of the Year award from Association President Carlton Jones.

BIELLING SPEAKS TO SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE



Senator Jason Brodeur (left) accepts his Legislator of the Year award from Association lobbyist Jim Spratt.


During session, Association Vice President Jimmy Bielling spoke before the Senate Agriculture Committee. He provided an update on the state of Florida's forest industry and also shared the Association's recently released "Florida Forestry" video.




Association Vice President Jimmy Bielling addresses the Florida Senate's Agriculture Committee.

In his remarks, Bielling explained to the committee members that although forestry is mainly associated with North Florida, its many economic and environmental benefits positively impact the entire state.


REDEFINING FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



SOUTHERN FORESTRY CONSULTANTS



WIREGRASS ECOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES



SOUTHERN FORESTRY REALTY

SOFOREST.COM

BAINBRIDGE, GA | **ENTERPRISE, AL** | **MONTICELLO, FL**
CHARLOTTE, NC | **GULFPORT, MS** | **COLUMBIA, SC**



IFCO
SEEDLINGS

Let's Grow Together

Nurseries located in:
 Alabama | Georgia | Florida
 Louisiana | Mississippi
 North Carolina | South Carolina

800.633.4506
www.ifcoseedlings.com



Committee members and staff watch the premiere of the Association's forestry video.

He was joined by Executive Committee member Jim Karels, Executive Vice President Alan Shelby, and Florida Forest Service Assistant Director Johnny Sabo.

The forestry video is housed on the Association website (FLForestry.org) under the Resources tab. Three other

videos, released during Florida Forests Week, can also be found there.

"Video is an important tool for telling the forestry story," said Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. "Having these videos available will make it easier for the Association and our members to share our story with the

legislature and a wide variety of other audiences."

Shelby expressed appreciation for the ad hoc video committee members Jimmy Bielling, John Dooner, Mark Milligan and Scott Sager, as well as the video producer, Scott DeBerry, for their time and commitment to this important project.

NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES OF FLORIDA'S TIMBER INDUSTRY

By Representative **KAT CAMMACK**



BY REP. KAT CAMMACK (R-FL-03)

As the lone Florida Republican on the House Agriculture Committee, I have traveled across our district and great state to meet with producers to better understand their challenges and unique needs. Agriculture contributes a significant amount to Florida's GDP – Florida's No. 1 economic driver in 2020, in fact – and I'm committed to ensuring our producers benefit from a strong domestic supply chain and a thriving economy.

The forest products supply chain is interconnected among landowners, loggers, haulers and manufacturers. To keep our forests healthy and productive,

it is critical that the entire wood supply chain remains viable. Loggers and truckers are the supply chain links that connect the tracks to the mill. If these two links in the supply chain are not healthy, it is difficult for any other sector to remain healthy for an extended time. This relationship along with labor shortages and inflation have increased the strain on the forestry industry in its entirety over the past year.

Input costs continue to rise, specifically insurance costs and diesel for truckers. Insurance costs are significantly higher for log trucks in Florida

**THE INFLATION LOGGERS
AND TRUCKERS ARE
FACING FAR EXCEEDS
THE AVERAGE RISE IN
COSTS FOR AMERICAN
CONSUMERS AND THE
TIMBER INDUSTRY IS
FEELING THIS PAIN.**

than other states. As rising fuel costs take a toll on the people who harvest and move wood products, the need for sensible solutions only grows. Florida's average diesel price climbed from \$3.950 to \$5.172 in 30 days. The inflation loggers and truckers are facing far exceeds the average rise in costs for American consumers and the timber industry is feeling this pain.

The supply chain has also become challenged by a lack of labor. Like many industries, labor is proving difficult to

find in multiple areas. The shortage of truck drivers has been growing for over a decade and while we've seen it fluctuate at times, it has remained ever present. Due to COVID-19, demand for an already strained workforce increased.

Locally, our team has been hard at work to expand trucking school capabilities to attract new drivers to the industry to help relieve some of the labor shortages we're feeling across North Central and Northeast Florida. We have also worked with our domestic producers in Florida and across the country to increase our fertilizer production to lessen our dependence on Russia and China. Finally, we've introduced and co-sponsored legislation to jumpstart domestic energy production to unlock our capabilities and reduce our reliance on imports.

The complexity of the supply chain challenges simple solutions. We must continue to monitor input costs as loggers and truckers are the supply chain links that connect the woods to the mill. It is clear the forestry industry relies on all aspects in order to operate, and it's in everyone's interest to make sure that wood moves smoothly from the forests to the mill. With rising costs, we cannot let the value our forest products provide to our state diminish.

I'm committed to working toward sensible solutions for Florida's harvesters as the ongoing challenges continue. I invite you to learn more about our work on the House Agriculture Committee and in Congress to deliver much needed relief where possible.

I look forward to connecting with the many Florida Forestry Association members soon, and thank you for all you do to keep our state and our nation moving. Our daily lives are affected by your work, and though it seems thankless at times, please know you have dedicated champions in your corner to tackle these challenges head-on.

Congresswoman Kat Cammack proudly serves Florida's Third Congressional District as the youngest Republican woman in the 117th Congress. She is a member of the House Agriculture Committee, House Select Committee on the Economy, and serves as the lead Republican on the House Homeland Security Committee Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.



Your Source For Containerized Pine Seedlings

Our product list of Advanced Generation pines includes

- **Loblolly**
 - Coastal
 - Piedmont
- **Slash**
- **Shortleaf**
- **Longleaf**
 - Coastal
 - Piedmont

Service and Quality is our number one objective

All of our seedlings are grown in Tifton, GA at LTF Greenhouses

- Located just 5 miles from I-75 and 1 mile from Hwy 82 for easy access
- Large labor force to accommodate short notice needs
- On site cold storage
- Local pick up or delivery to your location
- Custom grown orders upon your request

To place an order or inquire about pricing, please call **334-341-2059** or visit us at **containerpines.net**

Advantage Forestry Container Pines
408 N. Commissioners Ave.
Demopolis, AL 36732

ASSOCIATION ENDORSES SIMPSON AND PATRONIS



Senator Wilton Simpson

The Association has proudly endorsed longtime friends and supporters of Florida forestry for cabinet positions.

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES: WILTON SIMPSON

Currently serving as President of the Florida Senate, Wilton Simpson is a lifelong farmer and entrepreneur. A fifth-generation Floridian, Wilton has deep personal and professional roots grounded in agriculture, including a large scale egg-laying operation in Tribly, FL, that supplies eggs through supermarkets across the state.

"Wilton Simpson has a proven track record of strong leadership grounded in common sense," said Alan Shelby, the Association's Executive Vice President. "By combining sound policies with political acumen, he clearly presents Florida's best choice for growing our economy while protecting our environment."

"The forestry industry employs more than 124,000 Floridians and infuses \$25 billion into our economy," Simpson said. "The Florida Forestry Association's members are on the front line promoting the responsible and sustainable use

of Florida's precious forest resources, and I am honored to have their support."

Simpson was honored as the Association's Legislator of the Year in 2013.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: JIMMY PATRONIS

Jimmy Patronis is a fourth-generation Floridian, born and raised in Panama City. He represented Northwest Florida for eight years in the Florida House of Representatives and became Florida's Chief Financial Officer in 2017. His roots in forestry are deep: his family was honored as the state's Tree Farmer of the Year in 1983. Patronis was also honored as the Association's Legislator of the Year in 2012.

"Jimmy Patronis has been a vocal advocate for forestry throughout his time in public service," said Shelby. "As a member of the Florida House, he truly understood forestry's importance on both economic and environmental levels. As CFO in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, his leadership in recovery and restoration efforts could not have been greater."



CFO Jimmy Patronis

CFO Patronis said, "It's an honor to have the endorsement of the Florida Forestry Association. (Forestry) has created thousands of jobs across the state and protected our forests and wildlife. When most people think of Florida, they think of beaches and palm trees, but our forests are the hidden gem." •

IMAGES COURTESY OF WILTON SIMPSON
CAMPAIGN AND JIMMY PATRONIS CAMPAIGN





**RED RIVER
SPECIALTIES**



Timing is critical in getting the job done right. Red River Specialties' superior service delivers the correct product when you need it, ensuring an **accurate** and **timely** application.

Red River Specialties, an Azelis company, provides high quality herbicides and superior application services. Reach out to Cub today for reliable advice and prompt delivery of all your herbicide needs!



FL, GA

George "Cub" Smith
904-463-8352
Cub.Smith@rrsi.com

○ = Retail locations:

- Americus, GA
- Waycross, GA
- Alabaster, AL

rrsi.com

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN:

Wedgworth & the Association Have a 25-year History Together

By J. SCOTT ANGLE, Vice President University of Florida Agriculture and Natural Resources



WHEN MATT WEBB first met his classmates, he could tell just by talking to them: “I’m in a league I’ve never been in.”

Other Florida Forestry Association leaders had joined the “league” before him. They had turned to the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture (UF/IFAS) to develop their skills as your voice in Tallahassee, in Washington, D.C., on the airwaves, on the Web, and in front of audiences who don’t know a slash pine from a live oak.

Webb and his forestry predecessors in classes at the Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural

Resources¹ connected with established and emerging leaders who comprise a *Who’s Who* of Florida agriculture and natural resources, a network far beyond forestry.

For Webb, joining a league he’d never been in was exactly the point. Before Wedgworth, Webb had been largely focused on his own business. Then, through two years of seminars on contentious issues, face-to-face encounters with stakeholders with whom he disagreed, a visit to the nation’s capital, long hours bonding with classmates from other sectors of ag, and a trip to Hong Kong, China and Vietnam, Webb’s thinking expanded. So did his service to the Association.

After he completed Wedgworth, Webb was invited to join the Association’s board. He has served on it for 12 years, the last four on the executive committee of the organization. He even aspires to serve in elected office and reach all those voters who know little about forestry or agriculture.

And that league he’d never been in before? He’s led the league for the past two years. This summer Webb completes a term as president of the WLI Alumni Association.²

He now claims Richard Schwab, a business competitor, as a collaborator. Schwab nominated Webb for Wedgworth, but not

without talking to Webb’s dad first. In fact, Schwab wanted to nominate the father. When the father declined, Schwab pivoted to the son.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Webb too, now talks to the fathers of prospective Wedgworth candidates. But the sons and daughters (in this case two sons) aren’t his second choice. Wedgworth is a family commitment – fathers, mothers, sons, daughters and employees have to cover for Wedgworth participants for 55 days over two years. So, Webb treats a nomination as a family matter.

In Webb’s case, he wants to make clear to the fathers that their sons who work for the family business have potential to be more impactful leaders, but it’ll take some work that takes them away from the business temporarily.

Wedgworth Director Christy Chiarelli takes the same whole-family approach to running the program. She’s known among the current class for her handwritten notes to spouses thanking them for their support of class members and the sacrifice of having a family member away for days (and, on the international trip, weeks) on end.

That’s been the hardest part of Wedgworth for current class member and Association board member Ryan



Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby, along with Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Nikki Fried and fellow WLI alumni John Hoblick and Mike Joyner, at a congressional hearing.

Pavlik. Being away from his wife and three young sons and attending out-of-town Wedgworth sessions instead of his kids' Little League games has been a sacrifice.

THE VALUE OF SACRIFICE

Wedgworth has strengthened his conviction of the value of sacrifice in service to the industry, in part by bringing Pavlik and his classmates to a sacred space of sacrifice – the battlefield at Gettysburg. Two colonels with military history expertise deepened the experience with observations about the nature of leadership as it applies to the decisions made at this historic site.

Chiarelli has repeatedly told Pavlik and his classmates that service involves time away from work, family, church and community, and the impact may not be visible immediately, but it matters. Chiarelli's wisdom and the Gettysburg experience reinforces Pavlik's commitment to sacrificing his time, so that he can advocate, tell the story of the industry, promote good policy, and strengthen the forestry community.

Chiarelli teaches that in addition to the big investment of time in Wedgworth-related travel, small gestures also advance relationships and impact. She has the class write thank you notes to every speaker they hear from. Some classes collect an annual contribution to spend on flowers and cards for classmates who fall ill or face other adversity.

Wedgworth celebrates 30 years of programming this year, and Pavlik's Class XI graduates in July. The association has been represented in most classes going back to 1997. Applications will open in late spring 2023. For more information about the program, contact Chiarelli at ccw@ufl.edu.

In addition to serving on the Association board, Pavlik sits on the board of the Southeastern Wood Producers Association³ as well the Team Safe Trucking⁴ board.

Webb and Pavlik talk openly about the possibility of running for elected office some day.

Wedgworth also emphasized to Pavlik that service does not mean talking only to



Ryan Pavlik (right) with Eric Handley at a recent WLI tour of Usher Land & Timber.

allies. He says he is more likely to go out of his way to understand another perspective on an issue, even if it's one with which he disagrees. It's the best hope for finding common ground instead of retreating to your respective corners.



Matt Webb at Forestry Day at the Capitol.



From left, WLI alumni Mike Branch and Bob Cook with then-Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam and Mike Bell of Rayonier



Matt Webb accepting the Eugene Trotter Leadership Award from Mike Joyner.

A LONGSTANDING PARTNERSHIP

Pavlik had long had his eye on Wedgworth. He didn't need to be coaxed into making the commitment. In fact, he was networking with Wedgworth before he ever applied for the program. Each Wedgworth class make a trip to Tallahassee, and it always includes a reception at the Association office. Association members also attend at the end of their annual Day at the Capitol.

Pavlik would attend these receptions, meet the Wedgworth class members and alumni and see the value of joining a community of people who could open doors, identify opportunities and help solve problems. That's exactly what has happened.

It's an example of the special relationship between Wedgworth and the Association, said Florida Forestry Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. In addition to the reception at association headquarters, most classes also make a visit to a member's operation. Schwab has hosted the group more than once.

"We get to touch every class," Shelby said.

That's important, he said, because of the bonds and relationships it forms with other commodity associations. That comes in handy particularly when it comes to legislative affairs, said Shelby, who was the association's lobbyist himself before becoming the Executive Vice President 10 years ago.

IF YOU WAIT FOR THE RIGHT TIME, FOR WHEN YOU HAVE TIME, IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN. NONE OF US HAVE TIME UNLESS YOU MAKE THE TIME.

— FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT ALAN SHELBY

Wedgworth's network has also been an important way to coordinate advocacy for agriculture as a whole. Shelby's Wedgworth relationships connect him with agriculture leaders in other parts of the state and inform him about their issues, so he knows where they can support each other's efforts.

It's the Wedgworth network bringing agriculture together in a unified voice instead of disparate commodities pursuing separate agendas.

Wedgworth took Shelby to the Salinas Valley in California, Ecuador, and other places he likely never would have visited. It broadened his perspective beyond forestry, beyond North Florida.

It also emboldened a just-do-it mentality about taking on great commitments. Almost every potential nominee asks themselves if they have the time necessary to invest in the program.

TO HAVE TIME, MAKE TIME

"If you wait for the right time, for when you have time, it'll never happen," Shelby said. "None of us have time unless you make the time."

Pavlik's message to hesitant applicants is that you have more bandwidth than you think. During your time away, you also learn that the team you leave behind is stronger than you think.

While that team is covering business and family obligations, Wedgworth participants are joining a new team, with members who will take each other's calls, think through problems together, share opportunities, and open doors for fellow



Ryan Pavlik accepting the Association's Above & Beyond award from Vice President Jimmy Bielling.

classmates and alumni who want to pursue those opportunities.

You might say, as Webb does, that's it's not just a team, but a whole league. It's the big leagues of Florida agriculture and natural resources, and Wedgworth has drafted a generation of forestry leaders into it.

J. Scott Angle is the University of Florida's Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources and leader of the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). •

WEDGORTH ALUMNI AFFILIATED WITH THE ASSOCIATION

Mike Branch – III
Bob Cook – III
Jamie Hall – V
Stephanie Bloyd – V
Mary Fredrick – V
Richard Schwab – VI
Alan Shelby – VI
Jeffrey Spencer – VII
Matt Webb – VII
Lee Cutshall – VIII
Jennifer Greene – VIII
Lee Ann Fisch – IX
Joshua Light – X
Ryan Pavlik – XI

REFERENCES

- 1 Wedgworth Leadership Institute. <https://wedgworthleadership.com/>
- 2 WLI Alumni Association. <https://wedgworthleadership.com/about-the-program/wlianr-alumni/>
- 3 Southeastern Wood Producers Association. <https://swpa.ag/>
- 4 Team Safe Trucking. <https://teamsafetrucking.com/>

CELEBRATING A FORESTRY INNOVATOR



DR. WAYNE SMITH, professor emeritus of the UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries & Geomatics Sciences, was inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame on Tuesday, February 15, at the Florida State Fair in Tampa.

The Hall of Fame honors men and women who have made lasting contributions to agriculture in this state and to the mentoring of youth, who represent the future of agriculture in Florida.

"Wayne's body of work and research changed the face of Florida forestry," said Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. "Witnessing his well-deserved induction into the Hall of Fame was a pleasure and a privilege for all of us who were able to attend."

Dr. Smith's contributions to Florida agriculture encompass his lifelong devotion to education and research and his passion for forestry.

Smith, a native of Marianna, FL, and graduate of the University of Florida,



WAYNE'S BODY OF WORK AND RESEARCH CHANGED THE FACE OF FLORIDA FORESTRY



returned to his alma mater in 1964, advancing through the academic ranks to professor, director, and finally professor emeritus. In retirement he came back

to serve as Interim Dean for IFAS Research and then the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. He proved to be a groundbreaking educator and researcher and a remarkable administrator.

Smith played a key part in the research, development, and implementation of the first Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Silviculture. BMPs soon spread across Florida's agricultural industry and changed the face of agriculture. His research in fertilization led to practices that increased pine forest productivity by up to 300%. And his pioneering work in bio-energy made Florida a leader in the field and earned accolades from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Smith's work has been recognized around the globe, including an audience with royalty. He has been a consultant for the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization, and called upon to testify before Congress, always being a staunch supporter of agriculture.



Wayne Smith accepts congratulations from well-wishers after his induction.



Wayne Smith with his wife, Mitzi Austin.

an atmosphere of excellence, not only teaching students to be better foresters, but better people. At the same time, he strengthened partnerships with industry to better meet its needs from research and for job-ready foresters.

He was a driving force in expanding the school's Austin Cary Forest Campus to better meet the School's program needs. In retirement, he led fundraising and took an active role in designing the new Stern Learning Center and support facilities, including the turpentine education site and sawmill restoration.

Smith's grant-writing efforts garnered more than \$16 million in funding, greatly enhancing both educational and research opportunities. He and his wife, Mitzi, an attorney, also established the Wayne Smith and Mitzi Austin Forest Resources Law and Policy professorship and provided support for the Wayne Smith Student Leadership Fund.

Previous recognitions include the Florida Forestry Association's Distinguished Service Award, UF/IFAS Medal of Service, Society of American Foresters (SAF) fellowship, and Florida SAF Hall of Fame. •



Jack and Jay Vogel, pictured here with Duke Chadwell, were among many from the forestry community who attended the induction banquet.

As Director of the University of Florida's School of Forest Resources & Conservation, Smith restructured the

teaching programs to tackle more "real world" scenarios, to better prepare students for careers. He sought to create



FLAG

CREDIT UNION

A DIVISION OF BAY CREDIT UNION

Checking, Auto Loans, Credit Cards

FLAGCU.com • Facebook.com/FLAGCreditUnion
info@flagcu.com • (800) 458-3524 • (850) 488-6781



TimberMart-South

tmart@timbermart-south.com
www.timbermart-south.com
706-247-7660

- Trusted Source of Information -

Pine & Hardwood Price Reports
• Custom Market Reports • Historical Price Data

Serving our clients by reporting accurate timber market data and providing analysis on trends and events.

RELAMPAGO BLIGHT:

A New Tree Pathogen Found in Florida

By JEFFREY EICKWORT, Entomologist, Florida Forest Service

IN LATE 2019, samples from an ornamental privet tree in Gainesville were received by Dr. Jason Smith's Forest Pathology lab at the University of Florida with signs of an unusual fungus. It formed bright white threads of fungal growth (mycelium) that crept along the outer bark and appeared to kill leaves and twigs where it penetrated them. Soon more infected trees were found in Gainesville and Tallahassee, and Dr. Smith and Ph.D. student Claudia Paez began alerting other university and government specialists to the issue. They informally named the disease "relampago blight" (after the Spanish word for lightning), due to its bright zigzag appearance and rapid growth.

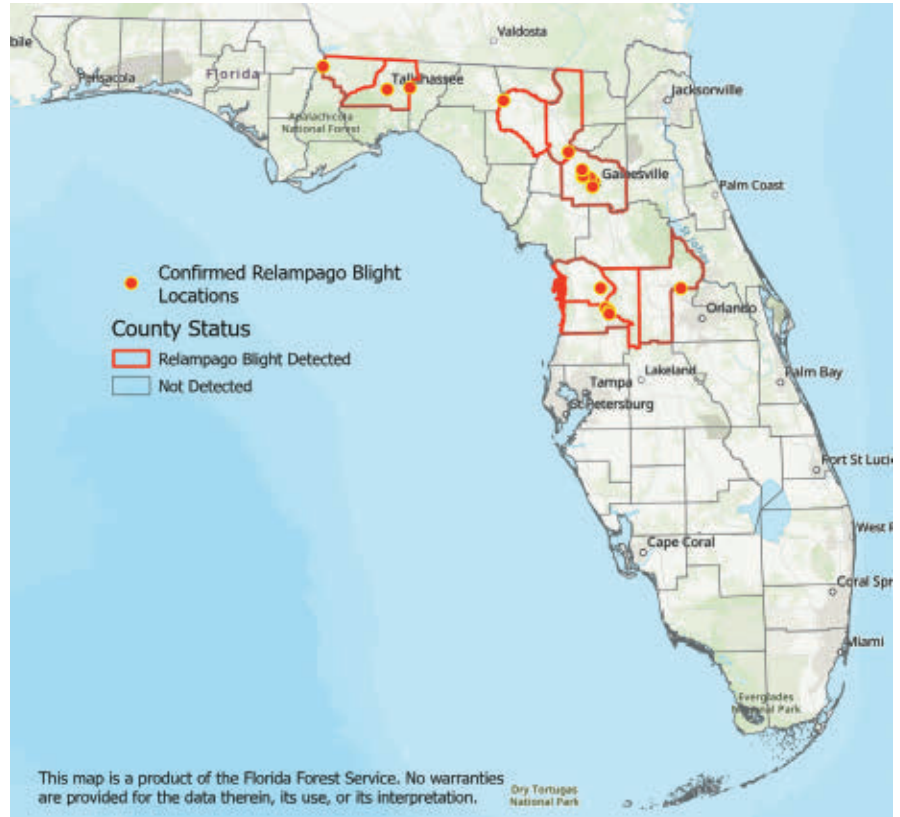
The level of concern has increased in the past year, as this fungus has been found in forested natural areas in several counties, affecting a very wide range of woody plant species, including oaks, maples, hickories, grapevines, citrus, and even the critically endangered Florida Torreya. Meanwhile, Paez and Smith's DNA analyses have determined that it does not closely match any species of fungus currently known to science, raising the possibility that it may be a newly introduced exotic species. But if that is the case, it is already far too widely established for eradication to be a realistic option.



A young laurel oak (Quercus hemisphaerica) stem with white mycelial threads of the relampago blight fungus.



The underside of redbay (*Persea borbonia*) leaves, covered with white mycelial threads of the relampago blight fungus.



Although this sounds alarming, relampago blight has not yet caused widespread, severe damage. It typically is lightly scattered in the forests where it has been found, with effects ranging from dieback of leaves and twigs to the death of small juvenile trees. A lot more work needs to be done to determine the potential long-term impact of this new disease on Florida's forests, as well as its basic biology, origin, distribution, and possible control options. Paez and Smith have partnered with specialists with the Florida Forest Service and the Florida Division of Plant Industry to study and survey for the fungus.

Whether or not it proves to be a major ecological or economic problem, the discovery of relampago blight highlights the constant threat that new pests and diseases pose to our trees and forests. Forest health specialists across the region are working to implement new tools, methods, and cooperative networks to detect and more effectively respond to future introductions. One such effort, known as the Pine Pandemic Preparedness Plan (or P4 Plan), is aimed at developing a comprehensive rapid-response strategy for dealing with any new pests and diseases that may affect our southeastern pine species. The future of our forests – and our forest industry – may one day depend on it. •

Larson & McGowin
FOREST MANAGERS • CONSULTANTS

This isn't Wall Street.

This is planning, strategy, and patience.
Every tree is earned.
No one knows what that's worth more than us.

Trusted Experience

Investment to Service

Modern Processes

Full Commitment

ABOUT LARSON & MCGOWIN

Larson & McGowin provides a full range of land management and on-demand decision support and consulting services to a diverse group of clients.

LOCATIONS WE SERVE

We have operations in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas.

www.LarsonMcgowin.com

MAIN OFFICE

10 N. Florida Street, Mobile, AL 36607
Tel: 251.438.4581 | Fax: 251.438.4604

ALTHOUGH THIS SOUNDS ALARMING, RELAMPAGO BLIGHT HAS NOT YET CAUSED WIDESPREAD, SEVERE DAMAGE.

CELEBRATING 85 YEARS OF THE UF/IFAS SCHOOL OF FOREST, FISHERIES & GEOMATICS SCIENCES

By JOSHUA BAKER



Fieldtrips to see different aspects of forestry, and learn from working professionals, are an integral part of the School's approach to education. Pictured is the Field Operations class of 2019 visiting with Southern Forestry Consultants on the Woodward family property.

EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS IS a long time. That's a lot of time to learn, teach, adapt and grow, and for 85 years the University of Florida School of Forest, Fisheries & Geomatics Sciences (FFGS) has done just that.

Since 1937, the School's students, faculty and staff have been generating and developing world-changing ideas, educating generations of professionals, and helping propel the University of Florida toward global excellence. Through name changes and reorganizations, FFGS has remained focused on the resources and stakeholders we serve.

Though our roots began earlier, the School's official anniversary is May 29, 1937. Professor Harold S. Newins became the sole instructor of the three courses offered in this department at the time: forest mensuration, forest protection and wood technology. Six years later, it became the 21st accredited forestry program in the United States, with a total of seven faculty. Eighty-five years later, the School includes 70 faculty, and



The Forestry Club has been an active part of the School since its inception, providing a forum for students, faculty, and staff to network, socialize, and learn more about the profession. Pictured is the membership in 1980.

EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS LATER, THE SCHOOL INCLUDES 70 FACULTY, AND THE FORESTRY PROGRAM IS RANKED AMONG THE TOP PROGRAMS IN THE U.S., SUPPORTING A \$12 BILLION FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY IN FLORIDA.

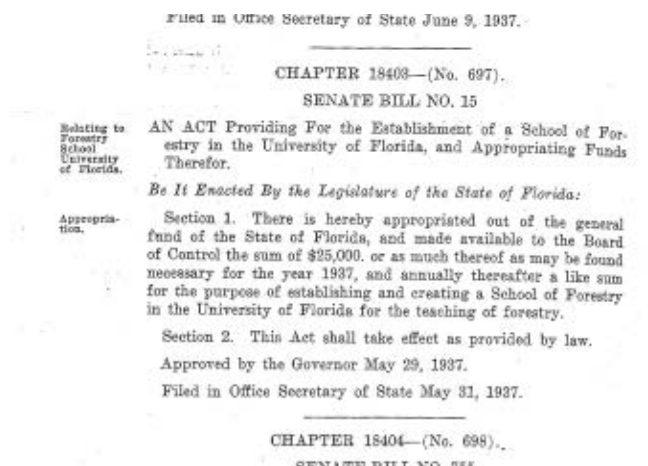
the forestry program is ranked among the top programs in the U.S., supporting a \$12 billion forest products industry in Florida. Faculty study an impressive array of fields, ranging from terrestrial to aquatic systems, bio-physical to socio-economic aspects, and from rural lands to urban landscapes.

Founded in 1937 as the School of Forestry, the School was renamed the School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) in 1971 to describe the wider scope of disciplines and educational opportunities offered.

At about the same time as this name change, the Surveying and Mapping Program was being established in UF's Department of Civil Engineering. Florida's population was growing, creating an increased demand for professional mappers and surveyors. This program would eventually be renamed "Geomatics," and join the School in 2004.

Since merging, the faculty in geomatics have expanded, and are now at three locations across Florida: the main campus in Gainesville, the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, and the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Plant City.

In 2008, the School expanded again with the inclusion of the fisheries and aquatic sciences program. Through a joint effort with UF's department of Biology and Geologic Sciences, we subsequently developed the undergraduate major in marine sciences in 2012, which has grown to approximately 100



Senate bill number 15, which allocated the funds to form the original UF School of Forestry, was signed by Governor Cone on May 29, 1937.

students within a decade. The program, which was historically known for its expertise in freshwater systems, now encompasses marine systems as well, with significant programs in both open-ocean and aquacultural programs. This includes faculty, staff and students based at the Tropical Aquaculture Lab in Ruskin, Florida, the Indian River Research and Education Center in Fort Pierce, and the Florida Conservation and Technology Center in Apollo Beach.

A highly visible change to the School came in 2021 when we changed our name to the School of Forest, Fisheries & Geomatics Sciences. While alumni and stakeholders (and many faculty and staff) are still overcoming 50 years of muscle memory, the new name better represents the breadth of our educational, research and extension involvement across Florida.

As we celebrate the School's 85th anniversary, we look back and appreciate the history of relationships, relevance, and excellence that have made us successful. As we look forward to the next 85 years, we're doubling down on service to our students and stakeholders, and pledge to keep building upon this momentum. •



A slash pine tree was planted in the UF Plaza of the Americas in 1935 to commemorate the newly founded forestry department, which would go on to become the School of Forestry in 1937. While campus has changed dramatically, the tree is still there.



The pen used by Florida Governor Fred P. Cone to sign Senate Bill 15 and a picture of the event are on display outside of the School of Forest, Fisheries & Geomatics Sciences director's office in Newins-Ziegler Hall.

FFS Managers Receive Nation's Top Wildfire Mitigation Award

Mike Mathis and Chris Colburn, managers of the Florida Forest Service's Tallahassee and Chipley centers respectively, were among seven selected to receive the National Association of State Foresters' (NASF) 2022 Wildfire Mitigation Award, the nation's highest commendation for leadership in wildfire mitigation.

According to NASF, the work of Mathis and Colburn is a shining example of how to quickly mitigate wildfire risk following natural disasters. In October 2018, a Category 5 hurricane hit the Florida Panhandle, leaving 72 million tons of trees broken or uprooted and prime for burning. The Florida Forest Service tasked Mathis and Colburn with developing a plan to address wildfire risk imposed by Hurricane Michael. They hit the ground running, forming emergency strike teams that cleared 574 miles of forest debris on 314 private properties across eight counties.

Both Mathis and Colburn were displaced by the storm, like so many Floridians, but they continued to work tirelessly inspiring county administrators to develop wildfire mitigation plans and landowners to participate in wildfire risk property assessments and clearing projects. They helped over 500 residents receive prescribed burn training, held prescribed burn classes for the public, and waged a wildfire prevention campaign to educate residents about dangerous fuel loading.

Mathis and Colburn were also instrumental in getting Timber Recovery Block Grant relief to affected forestland owners.



Mike Mathis



Chris Colburn

Jones Honored in Lake City

Local officials joined the Lake City Garden Club in honoring Association President Carlton Jones at its 2022 Arbor Day celebration.

City Councilman Eugene Jefferson read the official proclamation, which he presented to Jones, along with Mayor Stephen Witt.

"It's incredible to be recognized, especially by your hometown," said Jones.

"We are strong believers in being good stewards of our forests," he said. "We understand how important trees and forests

are, and we are committed to spreading that message."

"The Lake City Garden Club is proud to recognize Carlton Jones as our Arbor Day honoree," said Committee member Tina Roberts. "His work in forestry makes a positive impact on our town and our state."

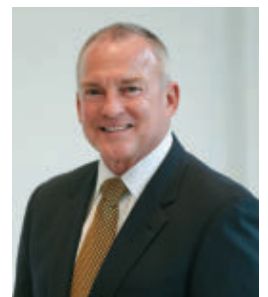


Boone Named Farm Credit Of Florida CEO

Marcus Boone has assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer at Farm Credit of Florida, bringing a wealth of experience within the banking and financial services industry.

Boone has over 40 years of experience with Farm Credit, beginning his career in his native state of Georgia. After working with two different associations in Georgia, Marcus moved to Florida and began a 21-year career with Farm Credit of Central Florida. His Farm Credit journey then took him to the Farm Credit Bank of Texas, serving as relationship manager and then advancing to Vice President/Unit Manager of the Association Direct Lending Unit.

Marcus returned to Florida in 2013 as the Chief Lending Officer at Farm Credit of Florida, a leadership role that he continues today as he manages the entire lending staff throughout the Farm Credit of Florida territory. •



2022 MEMBERSHIP
CAMPAIGN

THE TIME IS NOW.

MAY 1 - NOVEMBER 1

SPONSORED BY



A DIVISION OF BAY CREDIT UNION





RECRUIT MEMBERS FOR THE FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION!

Recruit members.

Help your association grow.

Win a \$250 gift card!

Every \$1 in dues generated = 1 point

Example: Friend of Forestry member @ \$65 = 65 points.

The recruiter with the most points
(250-point minimum) on 11.1.22 wins!

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



Product & Services Showcase

DRIVING INNOVATION.

Stay ahead of the curve with Nutrien™ Solutions – A team of experienced industry professionals helping to develop a program to best suit your land management needs.

LOCAL APPROACH. NATIONWIDE EXPERTISE.

At Nutrien Solutions, we partner with you to understand your forest management objectives with uncompromised commitment and stewardship. We provide the safest, most sustainable and cost-effective vegetation management strategies in the industry.

Contact Us | 1.800.752.7009 | NutrienSolutions.com

Nutrien
Solutions

**LEADING THE
FIELD**

#LeadingTheField



@NutrienSolVM



Land ownership offers great enjoyment.
We make sure it's endless.


 **AMERICAN FOREST
MANAGEMENT**

 **AFM
REAL ESTATE**

Land Management | Real Estate Services
Wildlife Management | Recreational Licenses | Timber Sales

Alachua 386.518.6344 • Lynn Haven 850.248.9459 • Marianna 850.526.5110

americanforestmanagement.com | afmrealestate.com WE'RE IN THIS **TOGETHER**



UF
UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

**GET AHEAD
WITHOUT
LEAVING YOUR
LIFE BEHIND**

Earn a graduate
certificate from
the University
of Florida
ONLINE!

ECOLOGICAL
RESTORATION

UNMANNED
AERIAL SYSTEMS

GEOSPATIAL
ANALYSIS

NATURAL
RESOURCE POLICY
& ADMINISTRATION

FOREST HEALTH
& RESILIENCE

<https://ffgs.ifas.ufl.edu/online>

Mizell Development, Inc.

P.O. Box 5011 • Callahan, FL 32011

*Complete site prep for reforestation
Forest land conversion to agricultural use*

ADAM J. MIZELL

President

Cell: (904) 545-0611

adam@mizelldevelopment.com

Albert & Chad Norris
Owners

Norris & Son Reforestation


Cell: 386-623-0964 / 386-397-3656

Home: 386-792-1285

Fax: 386-792-3679

12252 SE 50th Drive

Jasper, FL 32052



**BEASLEY
Timber Co. Inc.**

Founded in 1968

www.beasleygroup.com

The Beasley Group is a diversified, family owned forest products business. Beasley Timber Company is the procurement arm for the Beasley Group's hardwood, cypress and pine sawmills. BTC focuses on specialized logging operations to harvest timber in challenging ground conditions. We employ Florida based, BTC owned logging crews, along with localized contracted logging crews. Additionally we support satellite wood yard in Lake City serviced by Beasley Logistics. Please contact our office for inquiries about selling your timber.

P.O. Box 788
Hazlehurst, GA 31539

912-375-5174

Classifieds

CONSULTING FORESTERS

A.W. Powers Forestry, Inc.

2800 SE 26th Place
Trenton, FL 32693
Ph: (352) 463-1300
Email: powersforestry@aol.com

Established in 1998, Professional Forestry Consultant serving the forestry industry. Our specialties include: Site Preparation & Planting Assistance, Timber Sale Assistance, Forest Management & Forest Management Plans, Timber Cruising, Timber Marking, Timber Appraisals, Stewardship Plans, Cash Flow Analysis and Computerized Mapping.

LAND & TIMBER MANAGEMENT

B & B Dugger, Inc

P O Box 121
Crawfordville, FL 32326
Ph: (850) 566-0831
Fax: (850) 926-1390
Email: office@bandbdugger.com
Web: www.bandbdugger.com

B&B Dugger is a forestry company providing a multitude of forestry services in North Florida, South Georgia and the surrounding areas. Established in 1980, we provide forestry consulting, mechanical/chemical site preparation, prescribed burning, fire lines, mowing/mulching, stumping, fire suppression, food plot/pasture/road/pond improvements, mapping services & aerial drone mapping/photography. We are a U.S.D.A. registered contractor. Contact Dalton Dugger at (850) 566-2715

Wiregrass Land & Timber Co.

2572 State Highway 83 N
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433
Ph: (334) 793-2498
Fax: (850) 892-0955
Toll Free Ph: (334) 726-9339
Email: scolem@panhandle.rr.com

Contact: Steve Coleman, Forest Tec
Ph: (334) 726-9339
Email: scolem@panhandle.rr.com

Forestry Services- Specializing in treeplanting, scalping, subsoiling, bushhogging, fireline maintenance, kudzu control, wildlife plots, boundary line maintenance, prescribed and site prep burning, herbicide spraying, site prep, timber marking and timber marketing.



ISTOCK.COM/MARCELO MURILLO

LAND/TIMBER MANAGEMENT & REAL ESTATE

Florida Land Network

250 NW Main Boulevard #75
Lake City, FL 32055
Ph: (386) 365-2770
Email: flgaland@gmail.com
Web: www.northfloridalandforsale.com

A. Leonard Dicks is a Proud Member and Supporter of Florida Forestry Association for over 20 years, Leonard will help you with any Land and Timber Management Services. Purchasing or Marketing Property in North Florida is a big decision. Leonard has Decades of Experience and can help you with your Real Estate and Real People Needs. Contact him today.

TIMBER BUYERS

Harley Forest Products, LLC

P O Box 1749
Lake City, FL 32056-1749
Ph: (386) 935-6817
Fax: (386) 752-0379
Email: harl3228@bellsouth.net

Harley Forest Products, serving North Florida and Southern Georgia's timber harvesting needs since 2000. A family business, owned and operated by Joe Harley, an association member for more than thirty years. Over 40 years of experience in timber procurement and harvesting, Harley Forest Products specializes in buying and harvesting all types of timber.

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

CONSULTING FORESTERS

A.W. Powers Forestry, Inc.	29
American Forest Management	28
www.americanforestmanagement.com	
Larson & McGowin, Inc.	22
www.larsonmcgowin.com	
Southern Forestry Consultants, Inc.	12
www.soforest.com	

CONTAINERIZED PINE SEEDLINGS

Advantage Forestry Container Pines, LLC	14
www.containerpines.net	

CREDIT UNIONS

FLAG Credit Union	20
www.flagcu.com	

EQUIPMENT RENTAL & SALES

Beard Equipment Company	Inside Front Cover
www.beardequipment.com	

HERBICIDES

Red River Specialties, Inc.	15
www.rrsi.com	

LAND & TIMBER MANAGEMENT

B & B Dugger, Inc.	29
Florida Land Network	29
www.northfloridalandforsale.com	
Wiregrass Land & Timber Co.	29

NURSERIES

Blanton's Longleaf	
Container Nursery	Inside Front Cover
www.blantonscontainernursery.com	

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES

American Forest Management	28
www.americanforestmanagement.com	
Florida Land Network	29
www.northfloridalandforsale.com	

REFORESTATION

Norris & Son Reforestation	29
----------------------------	----

SAWMILLS

Rex Lumber, Bristol, LLC	30
www.rex-lumber.com	

SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources & Conservation	28
www.UF.edu	

SEEDLINGS

Arborgen	10
www.arborgen.com	
International Forest Company	12
www.ifcseedlings.com	

SILVICULTURE CONTRACTORS

Mizell Development	29
--------------------	----

TIMBER BUYERS

The Beasley Group	29
www.beasleygroup.com	
Harley Forest Products, LLC	29
T.W. Byrd's Sons, Inc.	30

TIMBER PRICE REPORTING

TimberMart-South	20
www.timbermart-south.com	

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Nutrien Ag Solutions	28
www.NutrienSolutions.com	

WILDLIFE CONSULTANTS

Southern Forestry Consultants, Inc.	12
www.soforest.com	

BRISTOL
FLORIDA
850.643.2238

GRACEVILLE
FLORIDA
850.263.2056

BROOKHAVEN
MISSISSIPPI
601.833.1990

TROY
ALABAMA
334.770.0950



REX-LUMBER.com



T.W. Byrd's Sons, Inc.

~ Timber Buyers ~

11860 E US 27
Branford, FL 32008

Phone: 386.935.1544
Fax: 386.935.3884



ISTOCK.COM/CTURLETRAX



ARE YOU READY FOR WILDFIRE?

Nearly half of Florida's landscape is forests, land that is fire-dependent and fire-prone. As the population of the state increases, most communities are part of the wildland urban interface, meaning they are near forests and wooded areas and are at risk for wildfire. Now is the time to prepare.



Protect your life, home and community, visit:

[BeWildfireReadyFL.com](https://www.BeWildfireReadyFL.com)

FLORIDIANS KNOW THE POWER OF PRESCRIBED FIRE.



By clearing out overgrowth that fuels catastrophic wildfires,
prescribed fire protects the communities we live in and lands we love.

Now, we're letting neighbors know.

See how at [WhyPrescribedFire.org](https://www.whyprescribedfire.org).

