

Spring/Summer 2023

# FLORIDAFORESTS

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

## Advocacy in Action

DOLAN APPOINTED STATE FORESTER AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

BRINGING FORESTRY INTO THE CLASSROOM

2023 ANNUAL MEETING: CELEBRATING  
100 YEARS OF GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES IN  
MASS-TIMBER CONSTRUCTION





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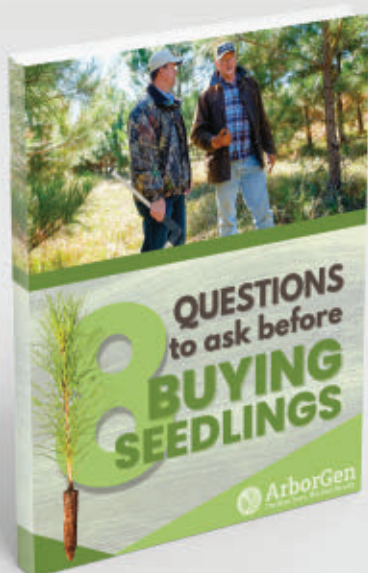


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**Volume 27, Issue 1**  
**Spring/Summer 2023**



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

**Executive Editor**  
Lee Ann Fisch  
Florida Forestry Association  
Director of Communications

**Association Leadership**  
Jimmy Bielling, President  
Avery Roberts, Vice President/President Elect  
Ann Hutchinson Duff, Secretary/Treasurer  
Alan Shelby, Executive Vice President

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**Publisher:**  
Geprge Casey

**Sr. Editor:**  
Michelle Harris Griest

**Layout and Design:**  
Deb Churchill | Print 2.0h!

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THE EVENT IS OPEN TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN FORESTRY, INCLUDING INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS, STUDENTS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

# Come Celebrate 100 Years With Us!

By **ALAN SHELBY**, Executive Vice President

**THE FLORIDA FORESTRY** Association's 2023 Annual Meeting and Trade Show is an event that forestry professionals and enthusiasts should not miss. This year, the Association is celebrating its 100th anniversary, which makes the event even more special. The meeting provides an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in forestry to learn, network, and celebrate this historic milestone.

The meeting will be held August 29-31 at the beautiful Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Miramar Beach, FL. This location is a longtime favorite of Association members for many reasons: good scenery, good friends, and good times can always be found there!

The event is open to anyone interested in forestry, including industry professionals, students, government officials, and members of the public. Attendees will have the opportunity to attend informative sessions and workshops, as well as interact with other forestry professionals from around the state.

One of the main benefits of attending the Annual Meeting is the opportunity to network with other forestry professionals. The event provides a platform for professionals to exchange ideas, share experiences, and build relationships. Attendees will have the chance to meet with industry leaders, government officials, and representatives from various organizations. This networking opportunity can help attendees expand their knowledge, create new partnerships, and advance their careers and land management objectives.

Finally, the Annual Meeting is a chance to have some fun. The event features various social activities, including a golf tournament, a women's brunch, and a silent auction that seems to get bigger and better each year. We are excited to announce that we have a special treat this year: The Swingin' Medallions, the iconic South Carolina shag band best known for their classic hit, "Double Shot of My Baby's Love," will be performing live on Thursday evening after the Closing Dinner! Make sure to pack your dancing shoes for an unforgettable evening.

For event details, registration, and hotel reservations, please visit [FLForestry.org/Annual-Meeting](http://FLForestry.org/Annual-Meeting).

If you're interested in sponsoring or donating an item for the silent auction, please contact our Director of Membership, Whitney Hough, at 850-222-5646 or [Whitney@FLForestry.org](mailto:Whitney@FLForestry.org).

We look forward to celebrating our 100th anniversary, marking both our pride in the progress we have made and our excitement for the future. We hope you will be able to join us. •







# You Never Know Where a Good Idea Might Lead

By JIMMY BIELLING, President

**ONE HUNDRED YEARS** ago, William L'Engle Barnett and S. Bryan Jennings, leaders in Florida's forest community, attended the Southern Forestry Congress in Montgomery, Alabama. While there, they met with the director of the Southern Forest Experiment Station, who urged them to form a state forestry association 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.

They took his advice. When they returned to Florida, they called a meeting of interested citizens in Jacksonville. On March 1, 1923, the Florida Forestry Association was created. Shortly after, the Association took the lead in securing legislation that created the Board of Forestry, which organized the Florida Forest Service. The Association was also instrumental in the establishment of the School of Forestry (now the School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences) at the University of Florida and of the Columbia Ranger School at Lake City.

These are just a few notable ways that the Association has changed the landscape of Florida forestry. Throughout our history, we have advocated for our members, protecting their rights to grow, harvest and use forest resources and fighting for ways to help them build and grow their businesses. We have initiated and supported research efforts, workforce programs, and educational outreach. We have promoted the economic and environmental benefits that forestry provides, as well as the power of its sustainability.

Clearly the Association remains committed to the same mission and values that have guided us for the past 100 years. We are passionate about advocating for our members. Strength is found in numbers. As the voice of Florida forestry, we are dedicated to amplifying our messages by growing our membership.

This 100-year milestone is a testament to the dedication and hard work of all those who have contributed to the Association's success over the past century. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members, past and present, for their dedication and their many contributions to our success. We would not be here without your support and commitment to our cause. I would like to also express my gratitude to our partners who have worked with us over these many years to advance the interests of Florida forestry. We are truly stronger together.

As I look back to all that has been accomplished and look forward to all the accomplishments yet to come, I can't help but think that our founders would be proud of what they began. •



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# ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Advocacy has been a core mission of the Association since it was formed a century ago.



## STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

"Forestry plays a vital role in Florida, providing jobs, resources, and economic stability," explained Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. "Unfortunately, the vast majority of our state legislators represent areas that have little or no forestry, so they don't always fully appreciate how important it is to the state."

It's what Shelby calls the 80/20 Rule: Eighty percent of the state's forests lie north of Ocala, but only 20% of the state's legislators come from that area. That makes it very important for the Association to be the voice of forestry in the capitol, telling the forestry story and educating policy-makers on the many economic and environmental benefits that forestry offers.

"It's also crucial to keep them informed as new issues arise," said Shelby. "Every session, thousands of bills are filed. Some are good; some are bad. We need to be in the mix either way."



Association member John Dooner addressed possible EFRP landowner assistance improvements in the Farm Bill.





Matt Webb spoke at the Farm Bill meeting on forestry's workforce challenges and solutions.



UF/IFAS lobbyist updated Association leaders during the legislative session on forestry budget issues.

Following are some of the issues that are currently on the Association's radar. Some might have been resolved in the 2023 legislative session, which was still in process as of this writing, Shelby noted, but others will require more time and attention.

"Take sales tax exemptions, for example," he explained. "We can never save our members enough money, so there will probably always be some form of exemption that we are fighting for."

### Prescribed Burn Liability

Prescribed burning is critical for mitigating wildfire risks. It is a widely recognized land management practice in Florida. However, the rising prices of liability insurance are becoming cost-prohibitive for certified burners.

**The Association supports the creation of new and better insurance options for prescribed burns.**

### Foreign Ownership of Ag Lands

Due to concern over providing unfriendly foreign governments control over our nation's food and fiber supply as well as access to neighboring military bases, legislation has

been introduced in Florida, among other states, to restrict the purchase, acquisition, lease, or holding of controlling interest in agricultural land by "nonresident aliens, foreign businesses and corporations, or foreign governments."

**The Association will closely monitor this legislation as it moves through the process and it becomes clearer how any unintended consequences will be addressed.**

### Sales Tax Exemptions

Trailers used in the production of forestry but that are not owned by the farmer are not exempted from sales tax. This excludes loggers and other forest service providers from the benefit.

**The Association supports legislation that extends exemptions to logging trailers and other forestry service providers.**



Kathy and Jimmy Bielling at the Farm Bill meeting.  
IMAGE COURTESY OF FLORIDA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION





Florida agricultural leaders met with USDA Secretary Tom Vilsak on disaster recovery programs.

### Mass Timber

The 2021 International Building Code recognized mass timber as an appropriate material to be used in new construction projects. However, as the Florida Building Commission conducted its normal and customary rule development process to update the state Building Code, mass timber was **not** included in the updates.

***The Association supports legislation directing the Florida Building Commission to include mass timber as an approved material in the state building code.***

### Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services are the benefits provided by the natural environment and healthy ecosystems, such as water filtration, air purification, carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat and green spaces.

***The Association supports renewed focus and efforts to determine the value of ecosystem services provided by agricultural and silvicultural landowners. We further support the utilization of both private and public options to monetize these critical benefits.***

### Carbon Sequestration Cost-Share Programs

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services successfully secured funding to assist timber landowners with reforestation and land management activities. This program, which focuses on the Carbon Sequestration benefits of trees, received roughly \$8 million to assist landowners. The Florida Forest Service accepted applications and awarded nearly \$5 million of the \$8 million available.

Unfortunately, the timing of the grant awards did not match the timing of planting season or other management activities. Due to the way the program funding is currently laid out, this gap could put landowners' abilities to receive their awarded monies at risk.

***The Association supports continued investment in this program. We also request that the Legislature hold the unencumbered balance of the 2022 funds harmless so that landowners may utilize these funds in an effective, efficient, and appropriate manner.***

### Immigration Reform

Over the past few years, there have been legislative proposals requiring employers to use the federal E Verify system to verify the legal status of its workers.

***The Association believes immigration reform is a national issue and should be dealt with at the federal level rather than on a state-by-state basis.***

### Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

PFAS are a complex family of chemistry which are critical in many of the products we use to power our lives. Not surprisingly, all PFAS are not created equal, and each chemistry has its own unique structure and use. Recently, legacy PFAS have shown up in locations such as airports, military bases and fire training centers, most likely due to PFAS use in many commonly used fire suppression foams. Both US EPA and the state Department of Environmental Protection have contemplated new regulations and water quality standards which would include criteria for PFAS.

***The Association supports a measured and scientifically defensible***





Association Board meeting in connection with the Association legislative activities.

**approach to the creation and adoption of any PFAS standards. Further, any standards must take into consideration the technical and economically feasibility as well as the attainability of any proposed metrics or numeric criteria for PFAS.**

#### PRIORITY BUDGET ISSUES:

##### Florida Forest Service

Wildfire Equipment	\$11.4 M
Aviation Equipment	\$ 6.4 M
Carbon Reforestation Program	\$ 5.0 M
Rural and Family Lands Program	\$300 M

##### UF/IFAS

Workload	\$3.9 M
Ecosystems Services	\$1.4 M
Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence	\$2.0 M

##### Department of Environmental Protection

Springs Protection Funding	\$ 50.0 M
Florida Forever Funding	\$ 75.0 M

#### Farm Bill

While the Association's main focus remains on the state level, it is also engaged on the federal level as well. Most recently, organization leadership

presented issues of concern at a listening session on the 2023 Farm Bill in Newberry, FL.

Led by Congresswoman Kat Cammack from Florida's Third Congressional District, members of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture met with foresters, farmers, ranchers, and other interested parties from all over the southeastern region to hear their top priorities.

The Farm Bill, set for authorization by Congress later this year, is a

comprehensive, multiyear law that governs an array of agricultural and food programs. It covers 12 different major areas, known as titles, and includes provisions for food stamps, disaster aid, agricultural subsidies, and research.

Association leadership took a team approach at the session, with each presenter addressing specific concerns. The presenters were Association President Jimmy Bielling, Executive Vice President Alan Shelby, and



The Association hosted the Wedgworth Leadership Institute's annual reception in Tallahassee.





Commissioner Wilton Simpson at the Association board meeting.

Executive Committee members John Dooner and Matt Webb.

Some of the issues the team addressed are listed below:

- The prohibitive cost of prescribed fire insurance
- The need to recognize and incentivize forest growers for being a big part of the solution to climate change issues
- Proposed Improvements to Post-Disaster Landowner Assistance through the USDA's Emergency Forest Restoration Program

- The creation of regional forest industry training hubs to support rural forest-based communities as a solution to workforce challenges
- Enhancement of the Good Neighbor Authority and
- Full funding for the Forest Inventory Analysis and conservation and reforestation programs.

"This was the only Farm Bill meeting set to be held in Florida," said Shelby. "As one of the top agricultural commodities in the state, it was important for the Committee to hear the issues that are important to us."

"For every challenge we presented, we also offered possible solutions," he noted. "This is reflective of the proactive, solution-focused approach the industry brings to the table as a general rule."

More than 200 people attended the meeting, which featured about 50 speakers representing the full spectrum of agricultural commodities.



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### Meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsak

Similarly, forestry also had a seat at the table when Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack met with representatives of Florida's top agricultural commodities at a special meeting he called in Bartow this spring.

John Dooner again represented the Association, this time along with former State Forester and fellow Executive Committee Member Jim Karels.

Shelby explained that the purpose of the meeting was to exchange experiences and insights on USDA disaster programs, highlighting the importance of collaboration and information-sharing across industries.

"Hurricane Michael taught us a lot about what works and what doesn't in both the immediate and prolonged aftermaths of a large-scale disaster," he said. "Obviously everyone hopes that no one has to go through something like that again. At the same time, we want to make sure all the pieces to the recovery puzzle are in place should we ever need them." •



# DOLAN APPOINTED STATE FORESTER AND DIRECTOR OF THE FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE



**RICK DOLAN HAS** been appointed State Forester and Director of the Florida Forest Service by Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson.

"With his decades of experience, and proven leadership and emergency management skills, I am confident that he will successfully lead the Florida Forest Service into the future," said Commissioner Simpson. "Failure is not an option when it comes to protecting the state. It's a critical job and Rick's servant leadership and team-oriented approach make him perfect for the job."

Dolan began his career at the Florida Forest Service in 1993 as a

Forest Ranger in the Perry District. He was promoted to Senior Forest Ranger at Goethe State Forest in 1996 and in 1999, Dolan became the first Forest Area Supervisor for the newly created Wildfire Mitigation Team located in Bunnell, Florida. In 2000, Dolan transferred to a traditional Forest Area Supervisor position covering Alachua and Gilchrist counties.

Dolan was promoted to the Operations Administrator position in 2010 and has been the Waccasassa Forestry Center Manager for the last nine years.

Dolan has been on the Florida Red Incident Management Team for 20 years, working his way up from Division Supervisor trainee to Incident Commander Type 1. He has led the team nationally on wildfires in Oregon, Washington, North Carolina, and numerous in-state assignments, including hurricane responses.

"We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with the Florida Forest Service under Rick's leadership," said Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. "With our shared focus on the continuing health, sustainability, and vitality of Florida forestry, I feel confident that good things are on the horizon." •



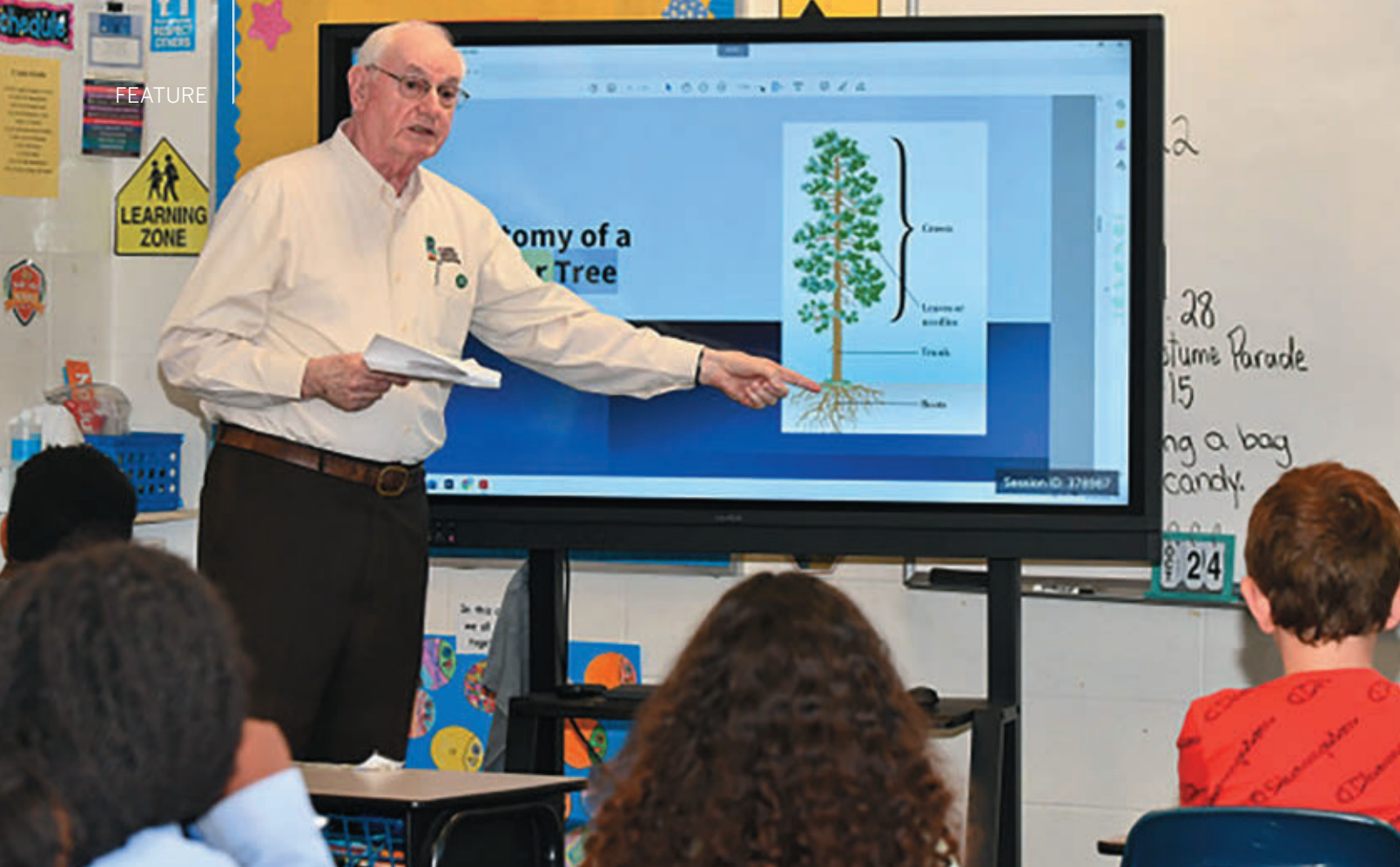
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John Alter brings forestry into the classroom for fourth graders at Dayspring Christian Academy in Marianna, FL.

# Bringing Forestry into the Classroom

By **JOHN ALTER**

About the author: Longtime Association member John Alter has coordinated the Jackson County Forestry in the Classroom efforts for several years. He also serves on the Board of Directors and communication committee and has received the

Association's 2018 "Above and Beyond Award," as well as the 2015 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award.

**EVERY YEAR WHEN** the Florida Forestry Association asks us to join in to celebrate

Florida Forestry Week, they offer us an assortment of methods to do our part.

On the Florida Forests Week page on their website (FLForestry.org, under the Programs tab), they list numerous ways we members can help: Write a letter to

IMAGES COURTESY OF MARK SKINNER,  
JACKSON COUNTY TIMES



## YOU ALREADY KNOW THE STORY—YOU JUST HAVE TO SORT OUT YOUR THOUGHTS... AND RELATE THEM TO FOURTH GRADERS. THE CHILDREN ARE WIDE OPEN FOR YOUR VERSION.

the editor of your local newspaper; Give a talk to your local civic club; or – the one that I enjoy – Make a “Forestry in the Classroom” presentation to a group of eager-to-learn fourth graders!

### Getting Started

Visit the Association’s Florida Forests Week site and review all the material and suggestions made available there. I decided to use a couple of methods that I’ll share with you.

To get the ball rolling, you need to decide which school or schools you’d like to visit. Back in 2016 I decided to make a presentation to the fourth graders in the town where I live – Malone, FL. Once you have decided on the school, get in touch with the principal and explain your mission, how it relates to the Association’s celebration and how you would like to proceed. There’s a sample letter on the website if you’d like help getting started.

I actually made contact with the school at the end of one school year and planned ahead for the fall semester of the next school year so the teacher could include the presentation in their lesson planning. They should plan for a 45-minute session. Obtain the teacher’s contact information and confirm if the principal wants to be included in the progress of your future visit.

In the fall, give the teacher a month to get their new school year started, and then make contact to work out the details of the exact day and time you will make your presentation.

### Who’s the Presenter?

Who will actually make the presentation? Obviously since you are in the forestry business you could be the “teacher.” In my case, I chose to have

a team consisting of a landowner and a forester do the job. Most Florida Forest Service County Foresters are tasked with making classroom presentations, so contacting your County Forester is

a smart move. They often already have a suitable program ready to present.

However, if the school is large enough, they may have multiple fourth grade classes and need to schedule several



*The Jackson County team: Matt McGaughey, Danny Duce, Tom Stadsklev, Deanna Orshall, Lesia Andrews, Caroline Dauzat, Camille and Carly Barnes.*



*Lesia Andrews and Danny Duce spent the best 45 minutes of their day with fourth graders in Malone, FL.*





Jackson County Forester Barry Stafford's banker box is a great way to illustrate how trees are grown and harvested to make a wide variety of "Goods from the Woods."

"Forestry in the Classroom" presentations simultaneously. That means you will have to recruit some additional presenters. I found it easy since most landowners like to share a story about their trees. Chances are you or the County

Forester also know other landowners and private consulting foresters to make up the additional teams. This year we fielded six teams and made 19 presentations to 425 students in seven different schools across our county.

### What's Your Message?

You already know the story – you just have to sort out your thoughts... and relate them to fourth graders. The children are wide open for your version. They eagerly listen to you talk about your trees: how you plant them; how you care for them; how you thin them; how you cut them; and how you haul them to the mills... and how you replant more trees after your harvest. And, of course, don't forget to tell them how the critters love your trees, and that they don't disappear when you conduct a thinning or harvest.


On their website, the Association has provided us with a set of generic visuals that can be downloaded to a portable thumb drive that can be used in the classroom because each is equipped with some kind of projection capability now days. The visuals can also help organize your remarks and lead you easily from topic to topic. It can be personalized by inserting pictures of your tree farm and timber operation. The more you put yourself into the presentation, the easier it is to talk to the students.

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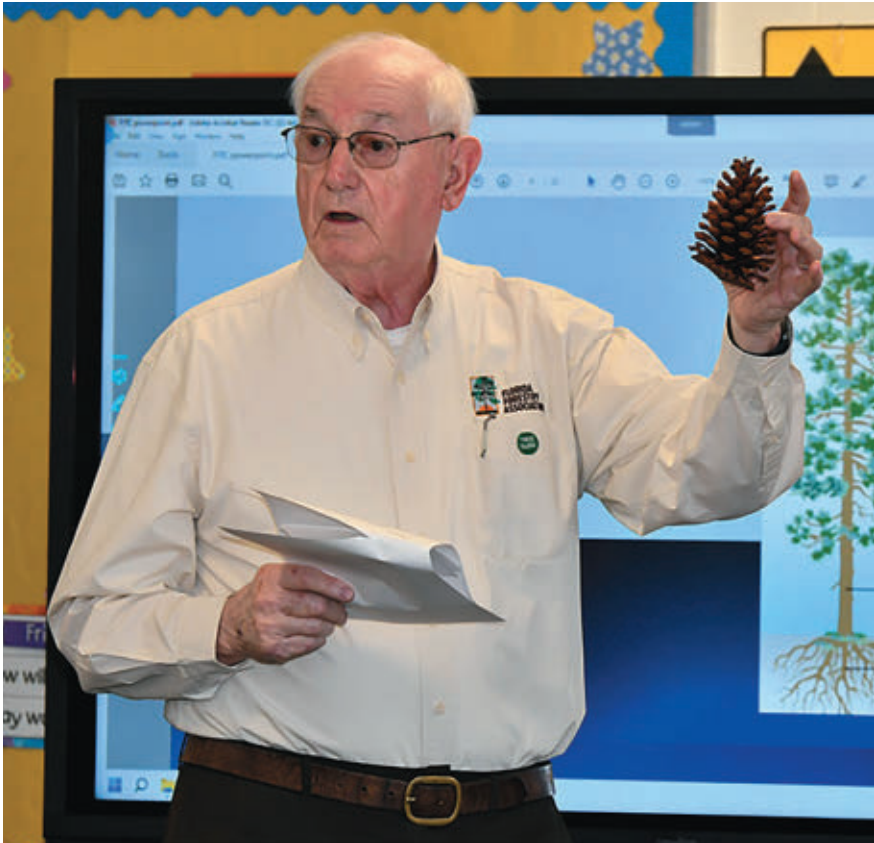
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John Alter shows the students a pine cone from his tree farm.

After you have completed the "formal" part of the story, here's the highpoint of your visit: You reveal how trees end up as a key part of the more than 5,000 "Goods from the Woods" products!

### Banker Box Magic

Get yourself a banker box, a couple dozen new wooden lead pencils (which are available from the Association), some poster paint, crayons or colored construction paper. Your assignment is to create a "forest" using the pencils as your "trees." You can get as creative as you want with the art supplies by adding "soil," "grass," "streams" and even some miniature critters that will help you make the point about cutting timber and maintaining healthy wildlife. Once you have decorated your banker box lid, create your rows of trees by punching holes and inserting your pencils to show a mature stand of trees.

Here's an idea: use your children or grandchildren to do the artwork to create your forest or ask the 4-H leader

at your local ag extension office to help you make your visual aid.

Now you're ready to look over the "Goods from the Woods" sheet (also found on the Association's website). Select two dozen or so items that will surprise the kids and underscore the

amazing use of wood (usually in the form of cellulose) in the astonishing range of necessary products we all need and use every day.

In the classroom, call the students up one-by-one and ask them to pick out a product that they use every day. As each student retrieves a wood-based product from the box, you have an opportunity to tell what connects it to the forest. Next, suggest that needing or using that product will require harvesting two or three trees from your forest, so ask the student to pull the requisite number of pencils from your "stand." By the end of the "harvesting," the class will be presented with a "clear cut" – except the remaining trees along your creek or lake that demonstrate the riparian requirement that professional loggers respect.

Now you can make the story of sustainability and responsible landowners who replant their stands investing in the next generation of timber. You can make the point with some simple statistics that here in Florida we actually plant more trees than we harvest!

### What Do You Say to a Fourth Grader?

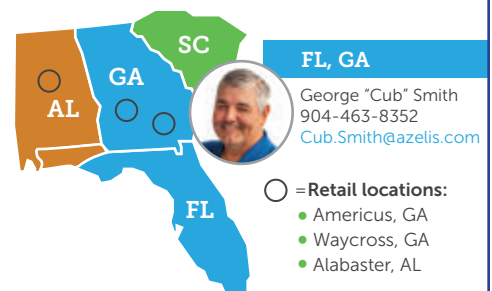
Our mission is to help young folks (and their families) understand that it's OK to cut a tree – it's a sustainable resource! And they will absolutely be amazed when you open your box of Goods from



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## Background

### WHERE DID "The Box" Come From?

Back in 2015, Association member Lynetta Usher started to receive letters from fourth graders attending a nearby school. They were critical of her cutting trees and they urged her to stop ruining the world. Upon investigation Lynetta learned that a teacher had assigned the project as part of an English letter-writing lesson.

Lynetta saw this as an educational opportunity. She grabbed a banker box, "threw in a few examples of "Goods from

the Woods" and stuck some pencils in the lid like growing trees.

"The Box" was born!

After telling the class how trees are a sustainable resource, she explained how trees are planted (and cared for and harvested) and how seedlings are planted to grow the next generation of pine trees. Then she asked the students to come forward one-by-one and select one of the "goods" from the box that they need or use every day. Everyone was amazed at how many useful

and necessary products contain some element of a harvested pine tree.

This part of the "Forestry in the Classroom" performance continues to be the hit of the presentation. The children – and the teachers! – are amazed and amused at the wide range of products they use and depend on every day come from wood – beyond the usual wood and paper-based products.

Thank you, Lynetta, for your creativity and leadership!

the Woods and let each student pick a product that they use every day ... that they can't live without... and then "discover" it contains wood! Remember: "Cellulose makes ice cream creamier!"

How you tell the story is as varied as there are landowners and foresters to tell it.

We have prepared a basic curriculum that provides some of the basic points we hope to make with the students. You'd be amazed at how easy it is to talk to the kids and relay your story based on your experience. Of course, the foresters can usually convey the "facts" about growing trees, but you can



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John deBrauwer uses a tree cookie as a visual aid in his presentation to students.

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## Multiplying the Message

**EARLIER I MENTIONED** that I combined two of the suggestions offered by the Association on their Florida Forestry Week Website.

I took the opportunity of the upcoming week of presentations to all 425 fourth grade students in our county to write a Letter to the Editor of our local papers explaining the project and its purpose. I used that medium as a "heads-up" to the local community. Fortunately, one paper turned my letter into a front-page news item. The other publication sent a photographer into the classroom and covered it as a special photo-story.

Our teams of twelve local presenters were eager to talk with the students, and I'm convinced we got our message across.

Next year we just might consider adding all the local service and civic clubs to our audience list. Those groups are made up of active folks who are area leaders and can multiply your amazing story to many others.

Think about it: you already have the message prepared; clubs are eager to have interesting programs about the community; they all have projection equipment – all you have to do is let them know you're available to celebrate Florida Forests Week with them.

Enjoy the rubber chicken!

deliver a "neighborly" story of why you love to grow trees and where you fit into the grand timber story.

And remember, "The Box" will always be the hit of the show and help

you carry the message of the variety of necessary products that come from timber, and why it's OK to cut a tree.

Fourth graders will love to hear you tell the forestry story. •

2023 Florida Forests Week will be celebrated October 22-28. For more information, please visit the "Florida Forests Week" page under the Programs tab at [FLForestry.org](http://FLForestry.org).

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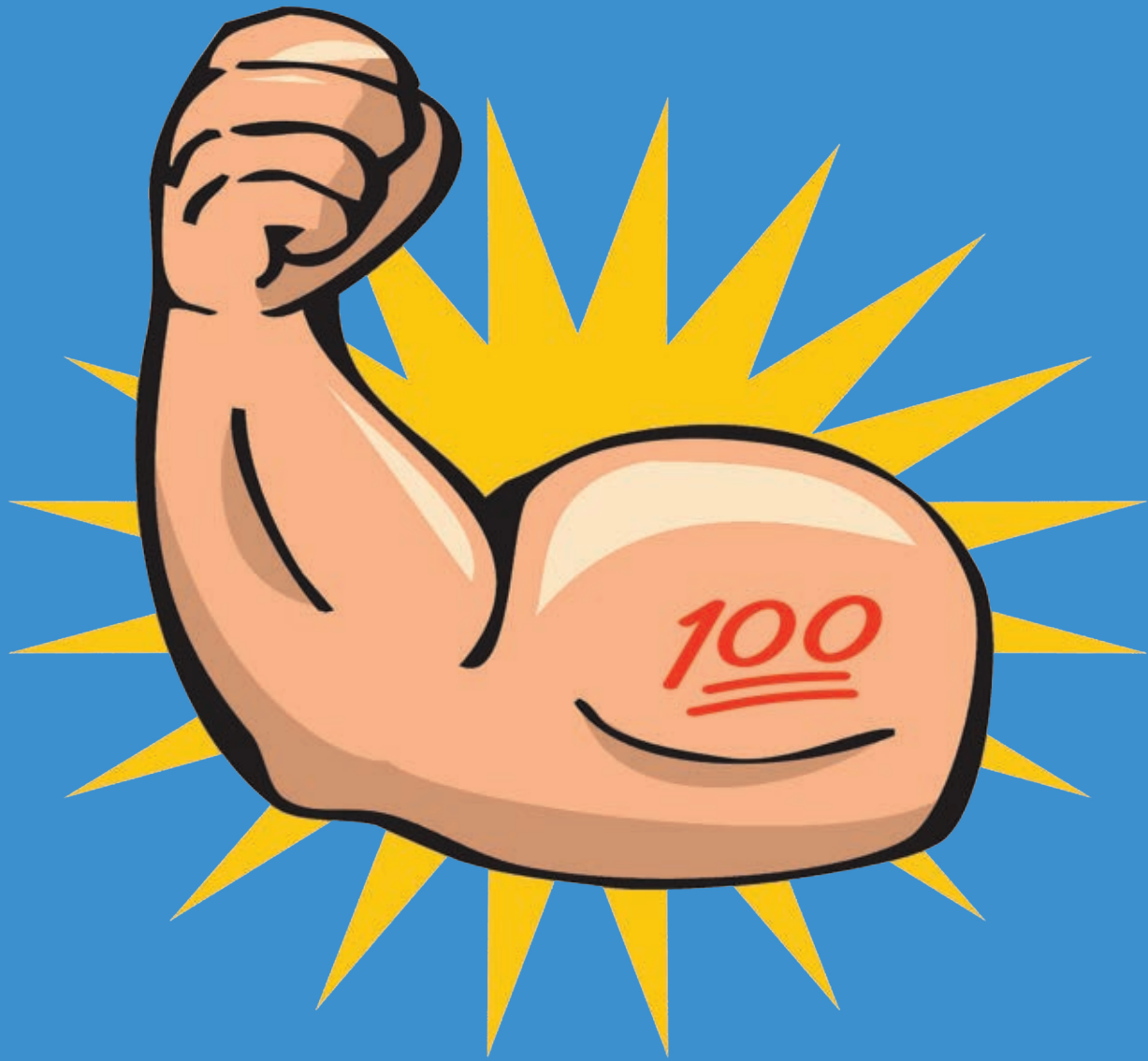
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- Women of Forestry brunch
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- Silent auction
- And more!!!



*Visit [FLForestry.org/Annual-Meeting](https://FLForestry.org/Annual-Meeting) for details.*



# EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES IN MASS-TIMBER CONSTRUCTION



Looking up toward the ceiling of the massive 27,000-square-foot Library Annex Building.

By **JOSHUA BAKER**

Communications Specialist  
UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries,  
& Geomatics Sciences

## REPRESENTATIVES FROM SEVERAL

parts of the University of Florida, including the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences (SFFGS), visited the University of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville in February to tour facilities constructed using mass-timber, as part of an ongoing effort to bring a new comprehensive natural resource building to UF's campus.

The group met with Peter MacKeith, dean of the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design, and others who helped plan, construct, and maintain several mass-timber building projects, including Adohi Hall and the Library Annex Building.

Adohi Hall, a 708-bed dormitory that includes fabrication spaces, media labs, recording studios and many other amenities, was the largest cross-laminated timber building in the United States at the time of its construction in 2019. The Library Annex Building is a 27,000-square-foot storage facility designed to house books, artwork, and other materials used by the school's library system when they aren't on active display.

Mass-timber construction offers several advantages over traditional steel and concrete systems. Building with wood inherently stores carbon and creates less emissions during construction when compared to steel and concrete forms. In addition to environmental benefits, the mass-timber construction process is faster, generates less waste and produces less noise pollution. The process also supports local landowners and mills, as well as the communities that rely on them.

IMAGES COURTESY OF JOSHUA BAKER



Mass-timber also creates a “biophilic” living environment, an architectural term that describes the human desire to interact with and appreciate the natural environment. The aesthetics of exposed wood in mass-timber buildings such as Adohi Hall create a welcome space that is beneficial to human well-being.

“The exposed wood in the rooms and gathering areas of Adohi Hall had a warm and homey feeling, a perfect fit for a dormitory,” said Daniel Kelley, project coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service Wood Innovation Grant awarded to SFFGS. “It’s inspiring to look at a building that accentuates wood in its design, but also emphasizes sustainable forest management.”

There are some challenges associated with mass-timber, including the threat of fire, insects, and moisture, but recent improvements in construction and abatement techniques have largely addressed these concerns. Independent tests show that mass-timber beams remain structurally sound longer than steel beams when exposed to fire.

Mass-timber projects are also not cheaper; however, if designed to take advantage of exposed wood panels, savings associated with lower finishing costs, such as less dry-wall or paint, make them cost-competitive.

While mass-timber cannot entirely replace concrete, steel and other materials in construction, it can be used judiciously and appropriately in combination with these materials to offer significant benefits.

A college dormitory and a massive library storage house might not sound like the ideal candidates to try out experimental wood-building processes on, but the University of Arkansas’s commitment to mass-timber construction has had amazing results.

“It was inspiring to see the mass-timber structures in Fayetteville. They were beautiful and functional, and it was clear that they were valued for their contribution to sustainability,” said Scott Sager, a staff member with the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences who attended the trip. “The opportunity to create an attractive, effective structure, out of a locally available material, was inspiring.”

This trip was funded by a U.S. Forest Service Wood Innovation Grant awarded to the forestry program and Atelier Mey, an architectural firm led by Christopher Meyer and Shawna Meyer.

Atelier Mey is a design firm based in Miami with over two decades of experience. They designed and built the first mass-timber structure in Miami-Dade County, and continue to collaborate with the forestry and timber industry to design new mass-timber projects. The Meyers are also both alums of the architecture program at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville.

The proposed 200,000-square-foot multidisciplinary natural resources building in the center of the University of Florida’s campus in Gainesville, Florida, would provide classroom, laboratory, and office space, and an opportunity for collaboration across the breadth of natural resources programs at the University. •

**IN ADDITION TO ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS, THE MASS-TIMBER CONSTRUCTION PROCESS IS FASTER, GENERATES LESS WASTE AND PRODUCES LESS NOISE POLLUTION.**



Dean Peter MacKeith of the University of Arkansas Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design speaks to the group inside of a hallway in Library Annex Building.



Inside the “Cabin” common room in Adohi Hall. This space features televisions, air hockey tables, lounge furniture and a kitchen.



The group from the University of Florida and Atelier Mey touring the inside of Adohi Hall.

# LEARN. NETWORK. GROW.

Forestry Forward is the Florida Forestry Association's leadership program offering opportunities to engage with peers, develop leadership skills, network with colleagues and mentors, and learn about Florida's sustainable forestry industry.

Forestry Forward is a two-year program. The program is free, but space is limited to 10 professionals per class. Individuals who are seeking to enhance opportunities in their forestry careers while developing their leadership skills are encouraged to apply!

## WHAT TO EXPECT?

Participants will engage in four regional sessions each year, focused on education, skill-building, and networking.

Topics include:

- Leadership Training
- Onsite Tours & Industry Discussions
- Mission and Purpose of the Association
- How to Get Involved
- Networking Sessions
- Participating in Advocacy Efforts





# FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION'S FORESTRY FORWARD



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[FLForestry.org](http://FLForestry.org) or call Whitney Hough,  
Director of Member Services at 850.222.5646.

## Association President **Jimmy Bielling** Honored by UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatic Sciences



From left, UF/IFAS SFFGS Director Terrell “Red” Baker, Kathy, Jimmy, Jax and Jesse Bielling.

The UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatic Sciences presented Association President Jimmy Bielling with its Distinguished Service Award at its Spring Celebration in April.

“Over the past 45 years, Jimmy Bielling has been a leader in the forestry community, a successful businessman, and a staunch supporter for the School,” said SFFGS Director Terrell “Red” Baker. “Despite having earned a bachelor’s degree from Florida State University, Jimmy’s service to our School is extensive.”

Baker shared that since 2011 Jimmy has hosted the Field Operations course, where he generally allows students to climb all over his equipment and ask questions about his business. This includes during COVID in 2020 when he was featured in a virtual field-trip. His company has donated countless

hours of both staff- and machine-time for site-preparation on the Austin Cary Forest. He has made time in his schedule to support the School at meetings and events, such as the IFAS Annual Review and re-accreditation site visits.

“Most importantly,” said Baker, “Jimmy has been a source of counsel and good judgment. When navigating a thorny issue, when we need to understand technical issues, or when we’re trying to find a contractor who can support a research project or a guest lecturer who can address a topic, we inevitably call Jimmy, and Jimmy helps us succeed.”

“This is a well-deserved honor for a man who puts his time, energy and heart into everything he does,” said Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. “Jimmy loves to shine the spotlight on other people. It’s gratifying to see him being recognized with such a prestigious award.” •



# **STRONGER TOGETHER**



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Membership category (see below) \_\_\_\_\_

If Associate/Vendor, please indicate type of business \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ **Please bill me** - You may also email this form to: Info@FLForestry.org.

☐ **Credit Card Payment** - Pay online: Community.FLForestry.org or call 850-222-5646.

Please indicate the amount of all the factors below that apply to calculating your membership dues:

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Total Dues Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP DUES CATEGORIES & RATES

**Associate/Vendor: Bank; Finance/Lending; Insurance; Law Firm; Nursery; Real Estate; Retail; and any other affiliated businesses —**

Based on gross sales to the forest industry as follows:

up to \$500,000 sales = \$345

\$500,001-\$2.5M sales = \$475

over \$2.5M sales = \$1,050

**Chemical Manufacturer — \$500**

**Consulting Forester — \$335 base** (includes 1-owner), plus \$80 per technical employee

**Contract Trucking Company —**

1-10 trucks = \$135

11+ trucks = \$320

**Forest Equipment Supplier —**

Based on gross sales to the forest industry as follows:

up to \$10M sales = \$500

over \$10M sales = \$2,000

**Hunting Club —**

up to 3,000 acres = \$70

over 3,000 acres = \$200

**Landowner —**

up to 500 acres = \$95

501-1,000 acres = \$210

1,001-5,000 acres = \$520

5,001-10,000 acres = \$980

over 10,000 acres = \$420 base plus \$.083/acre on total acreage

**Logger/Timber Dealer/Chipper/Fuel Wood Supplier/Chip Mill/Exporter —**

Production/Exports: \$210 base plus \$.0067/ton

**Mulch Processor — \$1,630 per facility**

**Pine Straw —**

up to 1M bales = \$230

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consumption of Florida wood = \$.0067/ton +

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**Other —** If you don't feel that the above categories are appropriate for you, please call us at 850.222.5646 to determine if you qualify as a **Friend of Forestry, Legacy Landowner** (Association Landowner heir), **Retired** (retired forest industry employee) or **Student/Teacher** (full time).



## Membership Meetings and Sporting Clay Shoot

Our first Membership Meeting of 2023, held March 23 at Bradford Sportsmen's Farm in Graham, FL, was a resounding success, with over 85 members and guests from across Florida in attendance. Sponsored by ArborGen, Inc., and Farm Credit of Florida, the event featured networking opportunities, a delicious lunch, and a legislative update from our Executive Vice President, Alan Shelby. The highlight of the day was a fun-filled Sporting Clay Shoot, with Farm Credit of Florida generously donating gift cards for the top performers.

On Thursday, April 6, a crowd of around 50 members gathered at the beautifully restored Bascom Schoolhouse for the Association's second and final regional meeting of the year. Good food and fellowship were in abundance! Alan Shelby once again gave an update on legislative affairs. John Alter, who hosted the occasion along with his wife Elizabeth, shared the story of how the community came together to restore the former schoolhouse and give it new life as an event center. Many thanks to our sponsors, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida and ArborGen, Inc., and to our hosts, the Alters. •



Executive Vice President Alan Shelby stands by as Director of Membership Whitney Hough takes aim.



Josh Crawford and Anna Wilkes-Veon with Austen and Avery Roberts.



Event hosts Elizabeth and John Alter in front of the restored Bascom Schoolhouse.



Richard Bertrand with ArborGen's DJ Joiner and Jason Cromer.



Farm Credit of Florida fielded a team of fun-loving sharpshooters.



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