

Spring/Summer 2020

FLORIDAFORESTS

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

"2020 VISION" ANNUAL MEETING & TRADE SHOW

LEADING THE CHARGE AT FFS

ADVOCATING FOR YOU:
LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN REVIEW

HOPE AFTER THE HURRICANE:
STATE BLOCK GRANT FUNDING
FOR FLORIDA PANHANDLE



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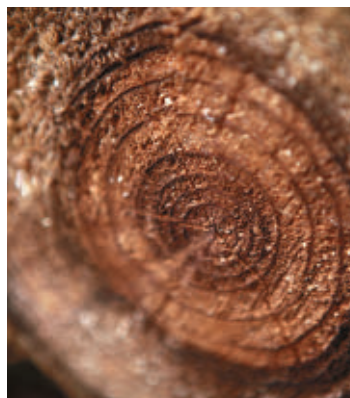
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FLORIDA FORESTS

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Volume 24, Issue 1
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The Florida Forestry Teachers' Tour (FFTT) scheduled for June 16-19 has been canceled due to concerns surrounding the coronavirus outbreak. TTFF brings teachers from across the state together for a first-hand experience in a wide range of forestry practices. The 2021 event will be announced at a later date.

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CHALLENGES WILL SURELY ABOUND IN THE COMING DAYS, BUT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE GOOD NEWS IN THE MIDST OF THEM. WE JUST HAVE TO FIND IT AND WORK FOR IT.

Good News!

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

This issue is full of the good news we all need right now.

The world is being rocked by uncertainty in multiple arenas, but Florida forestry continues to be essential and move forward. New leadership is stepping up. People are pushing through the challenges before them. The focus is shifting back from surviving to thriving once more.

There is much to celebrate on the Association front. We enjoyed another successful legislative session. Before COVID-19 took center stage, we were able to host a fun and productive regional membership meeting. And we are looking forward to our 2020 Annual Meeting at the Omni Amelia Island August 25-27!

We are giving 150% to making this the best meeting yet. Our goal is to create an environment where our attendees can benefit from the unique educational and networking opportunities provided while feeling comfortable that their health and safety are being protected and prioritized. As part of that commitment, this year we are offering a risk-free registration. That will allow our members to take advantage of savings from registering early, knowing that they can cancel later if there is a development with the coronavirus that makes attending unwise.

On other fronts...

Florida's new State Forester and Director of the Florida Forest Service (FFS) Erin Albury's first three months in his new role have proven to be a literal trial by fire. A thoughtful and professional response to the challenges has made FFS a national leader in the management of large incidents in the midst of COVID-19.

University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) is also preparing for new leadership: Dr. Scott Angle will assume the role as its vice president for agriculture and natural resources in July. His extensive experience has earned him national recognition and promises to help lead UF/IFAS and its School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) into a new and even brighter day.

Forestland owners in Florida's Panhandle are also looking at new and brighter days ahead. \$380.7 million in state block grant funding has been authorized to help with recovery from the devastating blow dealt by Hurricane Michael in 2018. It is expected that affected timberland owners could begin to receive funding as soon as this fall. This is the first time a USDA program has been authorized to award block grants for timber crop losses during a disaster.

Research at the SFRC Cooperative Forest Genetics Research Program (CFGRP) provides a bright spot on the horizon for forestland owners as well. The program's efforts help to maximize stand productivity, making it possible to grow more timber on less land. They have also developed varieties of southern pine species that grow faster and have greater disease resistance.

Challenges will surely abound in the coming days, but there will always be good news in the midst of them. We just have to find it and to work for it. Through it all, the Association will be here for you, moving Florida forestry forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. ●



HARD TIMES HAVE A WAY OF STRIPPING OFF OUR FILTERS. THEY CLARIFY OUR PRIORITIES WITH CRYSTALLINE FOCUS, TURNING INTENTIONS INTO ACTION WITH A FORCE GOOD TIMES DON'T ALWAYS MUSTER.

2020 Vision

Serving our members. Advocating for our industry. Moving forestry forward.

By **EDWARD COLE**, Florida Forestry Association President

Pandemic; faltering economy; self-isolation; social distancing. If you asked me at the beginning of 2020 about my vision for the year, I would have mentioned continued economic expansion, prosperity and election-year politics.

Instead, we now face an entirely different landscape; one I did not envision. Most likely, the moment looks nothing like what you anticipated either. And yet, here we are. Halfway through a year in which our best laid plans have been shelved, we now face a whole new set of challenges (and opportunities).

But there is a silver lining: hard times create clarity. Adversity strips away complacency, making us focus on priorities and motivating action.

That is true for industries and associations as well as individuals.

Any doubt about the important role that forest products play in our everyday lives, and especially in emergencies, has been erased. The world needs us even more than before. From protective masks and filters, to paper products, disinfectant wipes and other household cleaners, packaging for food and other items, cellulose used for pills, and even the pallets that make transporting all these items possible, "goods from the woods" have been very much in the limelight this year and are being recognized for the vital role they play in these turbulent times.

Our Association mobilized early on to ensure that forestry was recognized for its essential role at both state and local levels. We worked with Governor Ron DeSantis and Commissioner Nikki Fried to make sure forestry was included as an "essential industry" and in the lifting of weight limits on trucks. And we continue to make a variety of resources available to help our members cope with the many facets of the COVID-19 crisis.

As it turns out, albeit it in unexpected ways, our overall vision for the Association in 2020 is coming to fruition after all: we are continuing to focus on serving our members and industry. And we are doing so through not only the strength of our existing networks and communication channels, but also newly discovered ways of doing business that have led to greater creativity and flexibility in problem-solving along with higher productivity and efficiency.

While the current crisis has brought challenges and loss, when we emerge on the other side, I hope that we are all able to see that good has come of it as well; that we have remembered our individual and collective values; that we have discovered new strengths and greater purpose; and that we never lose sight of the important lessons learned. •

LEADING THE CHARGE AT FFS



WHEN ERIN ALBURY stepped into the role of State Forester and Director of the Florida Forest Service (FFS) on March 1 of this year, he was fully prepared to lead the charge after the retirement of his predecessor, Jim Karels. Experience, leadership, knowledge of Florida forestry, and a proven relationship with the rest of the FFS team – Albury checks all the boxes.

Albury grew up in Central Florida, spending his free time hunting and fishing with his dad. His first exposure to forestry as a career came in the person of the Citrus County Forester who worked with the local FFA chapter. Combined with Albury's natural affinity for the outdoors, that connection led to his studies at the University of Florida, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree from the School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC).

Appropriately, Albury's career with FFS began as the Citrus County Forester. From there, he moved up in the ranks as Forest Area Supervisor and District Manager before being promoted to the State Office as the Bureau Chief of Field Operations. In 2018, he was appointed second-in-command.

Albury has more than 22 years of experience in wildfire prevention and suppression, prescribed burning and land management. He has also served



both the state and the nation in several roles on the agency's all-hazard incident management teams.

Albury's extensive experience has already proven to be vital. In his first three months in his new position, he and his team have faced unprecedented

challenges caused by a worldwide pandemic during the peak months of Florida's year-round wildfire activity.

By the end of May, the Florida Forest Service had responded to more than 1,400 wildfires that burned nearly 35,000 acres since the year began. That

"FLORIDA'S FORESTS SUPPORT THOUSANDS OF JOBS AND ARE CRITICAL TO THE PANHANDLE'S ECONOMY AND ECOLOGY," SAID ALBURY. "WE WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH FOREST LANDOWNERS TO HELP DELIVER THE ASSISTANCE FOR WHICH THEY'VE WAITED FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS."

is nearly twice as many fires and more than triple the acreage burned in the same timeframe for 2019.

With two Incident Management Teams (IMTs) deployed in May, Florida was the first state in the country to deploy IMTs for wildfires this year, making them a national leader in the management of large incidents in the midst of COVID-19.

"As an emergency response agency, it is imperative that we maintain our ability to respond to wildfire and all natural disasters," said Albury. "Our wildland firefighters and support personnel are following CDC guidelines and best practices to the best of their ability to minimize their exposure to the Coronavirus and to avoid the risk of reducing our firefighting resources."

One of the largest wildfires sparked in Collier County in South Florida; two others burned in the Florida Panhandle.

In 2018, Hurricane Michael left unprecedented amounts of downed timber in its destructive path through the Panhandle. The devastation created lasting damage which remains a potential wildfire hazard; conditions pose a serious challenge for firefighters today and probably for years to come.

Albury has said that areas impacted by Hurricane Michael will be a priority for the FFS as landowners continue to clean up and work toward reforestation efforts.

With the long-awaited signing of the \$380 million federal aid agreement between the USDA and the State of Florida announced on May 29, Albury confirmed the Florida Forest Service's commitment to forest landowners.

"Florida's forests support thousands of jobs and are critical to the Panhandle's economy and ecology," said Albury. "We will work closely with forest landowners to help deliver the assistance for which they've waited for nearly two years."

"I've known and worked with Erin for many years," said Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. "He is an experienced leader with a solid team, and I am confident in his ability to lead the charge."

Erin and his wife, Lindsey, live in Monticello where they spend their free time chasing their three-year old son, Easton.

MORE LEADERSHIP CHANGES



Johnny Sabo: Assistant Director.

Johnny Sabo joined the FFS in 2004 as the Calhoun and Liberty County Forester at the Chipola Forestry Center. He later served as Operations Administrator, overseeing Bay and Walton Counties, then as the Chipola Center Manager.

In 2017, he joined the FFS State Office as the Bureau Chief of Forest Management.

Sabo has acted in various positions on interagency incident management teams throughout his career.

Johnny lives in Crawfordville with his wife, Christina.



Sam LeNeave: Field Operations Bureau Chief.

Sam LeNeave began his career as a Forest Ranger in the Suwannee Forestry Center in 1991 following an active duty tour with the United States Army. He has held numerous positions within the agency including Fire Training Officer, Forest Area Supervisor, Operations Administrator, Center Manager and Deputy Chief of Field Operations.

LeNeave is a Certified Public Manager and graduate of the Department's Legacy Leadership program. He has been actively involved with FFS's Basic Fire Control Training since 2000.

Sam and his wife, Michelle, live in Live Oak and have two children, Savannah and Ryan. •

HOPE AFTER THE HURRICANE:

STATE BLOCK GRANT FUNDING FOR FLORIDA PANHANDLE

ON MAY 28, 2020, the State of Florida and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the successful end of negotiations on the administration of \$380.7 million in grant funding to help Florida's timber industry in the Panhandle recover from the devastating blow dealt by Hurricane Michael in 2018. It is expected that affected timberland owners could begin to receive funding as soon as this fall.

This is the first time a USDA program has been authorized to award block grants for timber crop losses during a disaster.

"Today, we are another step closer to providing much-needed relief to those still feeling the impacts of Hurricane Michael," said Governor Ron DeSantis.

The agreement establishes eligibility parameters and defines guidelines for the state to implement this program. It includes relief for timber producers, as well as farmers who have damaged irrigation systems.

It is anticipated that the Florida Forest Service (FFS) will help administer the USDA grant alongside the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). FFS will provide technical assistance to individual landowners in the affected area. Forest Service personnel will work with landowners to verify their timber loss

and help landowners with documentation of loss.

Affected landowners who have not already done so are advised to go to their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office and get signed up for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). The deadline for doing so is October 30, 2020.

FDEM will also be conducting community outreach to ensure timberland owners have the information they need to get signed up for the program. Additionally, landowners can email questions to timber@em.myflorida.com.

"The signing of this agreement has been long-awaited and is a positive step forward for Florida's timber producers," said Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried. "We worked closely with the USDA for nearly a year to secure this relief for our timber industry, which has continued to show extraordinary resilience through wildfires, drought, and other challenges. With this agreement signed, our Florida Forest Service will be working with timber producers to get checks in hand and trees in the ground, and help Florida's farmers repair and rebuild irrigation infrastructure. Thank you to Secretary Perdue for helping put Florida's \$25 billion timber industry first."

"Florida's forests support thousands of jobs and are critical to the Florida

Panhandle's economy and ecology," said State Forester and Director of the Florida Forest Service Erin Albury. "We will work closely with our state's Panhandle timber producers and forest landowners to help deliver the assistance for which they've waited for nearly two years."

Timber is the leading industry in the Florida Panhandle. It suffered a \$1.3 billion economic blow from Hurricane Michael. An estimated 550 million trees, weighing 72 million tons, were damaged or destroyed by the massive Category 5 hurricane. Clearing downed timber can cost up to \$2,000 per acre, compounding the crop's financial loss.

"This agreement would not have been possible without the leadership and hard work of many people," said Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. "We are grateful to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue, Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, Congressman Neal Dunn and the entire Florida congressional delegation, Governor Ron DeSantis and the Division of Emergency Management, and Commissioner Nikki Fried and the Florida Forest Service. They should all be commended for their demonstrated commitment to Florida forestry."

The full text of the agreement can be found at flforestry.org/wp-content/uploads/5-28-20-Michael-timber-agreement.pdf ●

GOPHER TORTOISE SURVEY RESULTS

By **LAURA BOSWORTH**, Florida Forestry Association, Director of Forestry and Regulatory Affairs

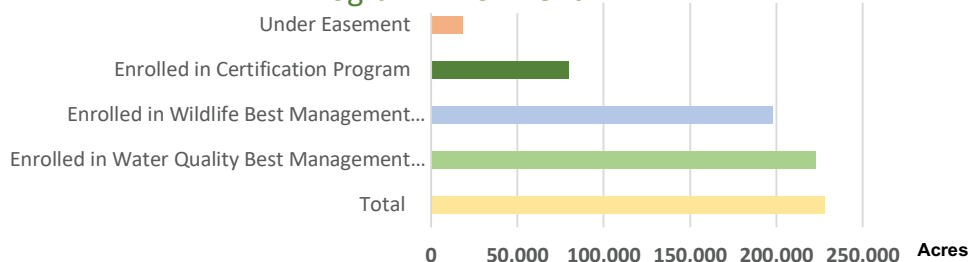
Gopher Tortoise Listing and Consultant Data Request

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is currently performing a listing determination for the Gopher Tortoise over its entire Southeastern range. To aid the USFWS in collecting the best data, the Florida Forestry Association gopher tortoise task force requested information from its consulting foresters on the lands that they manage.

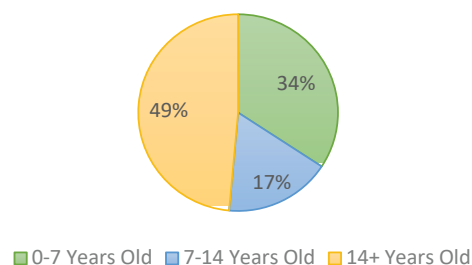
As a result, we shared consolidated data on over 600,000 acres with the USFWS.

We asked consultants about...

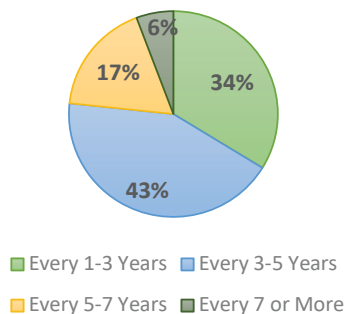
Program Enrollment



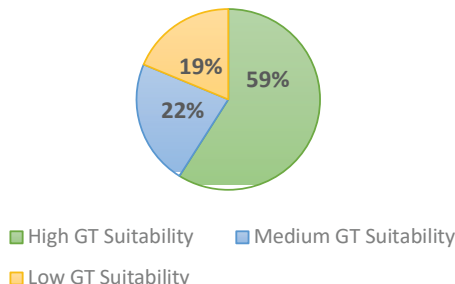
Stand Age



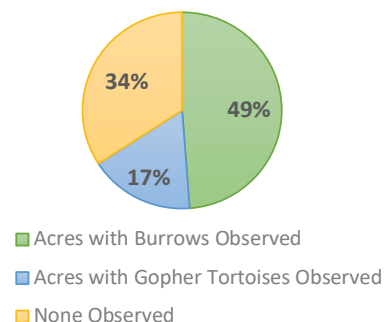
Understory Management



Gopher Tortoise Habitat Suitability



Acres with Gopher Tortoise & Burrows Observed



USFWS Listing Timeline

**May 2019-
Summer 2020**
Group
Meetings, data
collection

**Summer
2020**
Draft
Report

Fall 2020
Partner
Review

**January
2021**
Partner
Meeting

By 2022
Notice for
final
listing



Photo and map courtesy of USFWS

For additional information, please contact Laura Bosworth at Laura@flforestry.org

ADVOCATING FOR YOU: LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN REVIEW

By **JIM SPRATT**, Magnolia Strategies, Florida Forestry Association Lobbyist



Board members Emily Lowe and John Alter pause in front of the capitol directory after their round of legislative visits. IMAGES COURTESY OF THE FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.



Pictured from left: Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby, Michael Dooner, Avery Roberts, Association Director of Forestry and Regulatory Affairs Laura Bosworth, Representative Bobby Payne, and Kathy and Jimmy Bielling at the Rural Counties Day reception, hosted by Rep. Payne.

"IT WAS THE best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

How correct Charles Dickens was in this excerpt from the classic *A Tale of Two Cities*.

The 2020 Florida Legislative Session concluded with a vote on the budget on Thursday, March 19. While there were several bright spots which will be outlined below, the new challenges faced by the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and the cascading economic impacts will leave a mark in every segment of the nation's and state's economy. These new impacts are salt in the wound to an industry which is still struggling to recover from the devastating impacts of Hurricane Michael.

Below are a few highlights from the 2020 legislative session:

POLICY

Water Quality Improvement

(SB 712 by Sen. Mayfield and HB 1343 by Rep. Payne)

This significant omnibus legislation was a high priority for the Association all session, if for no other reason than to



From left: Board members Mark Milligan, Monte Simpson, Cindy Littlejohn and John Alter joined other Association leaders for the legislative briefing.



Senator Ben Albritton, Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee and former Association Legislator of the Year.

ensure really bad policy wasn't added to the legislation. First, the Association wishes to extend a huge thank you to Sen. Debbie Mayfield, R-Melbourne, and Rep. Bobby Payne, R-Palatka, for guiding the ship in their respective chambers; they spent hours upon hours trying to land this ship and they did a great job. We also thank Rep. Blaise Ingoglia, R-Spring Hill, Rep. Toby Overdorf, R-Stuart, Sen. Ben Albritton, R-Bartow, and Sen. Wilton Simpson, R-Spring Hill, for their work on this legislation.

To recap, the bill includes several provisions: (1) transfers the septic tank program from the Department of Health to the Department of Environmental Protection; (2) creates a water quality grant program for local government and utilities to transition septic tanks to sewer and other water quality projects; (3) requires water management districts to update their storm water rules; (4) directs the Department of Environmental Protection and appropriate water management districts to conduct a study of bottled water withdrawals in springsheds; (5) requires the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to conduct BMP implementation verifications every two years with a specific focus on the Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee watersheds; (6) authorizes the development and cost-share of regional agricultural water quality projects; (7) requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to adopt



Executive Committee member Matt Webb.



UF/IFAS Director of Governmental Affairs Maryann Hooks.



From left: John Dooner, Association Secretary/Treasurer Ann Duff, Director of Forestry and Regulatory Affairs Laura Bosworth, and President Edward Cole had front row seats for the legislative briefing during Forestry Day at the Capitol.



Representative Jason Shoaf.



Representative Loranne Ausley, former Association Legislator of the Year.

updated biosolids rules; (8) prohibits any local government ordinance, rule, charter or other action from granting rights to nature or the natural system.

The final provision (8) requires additional explanation because the issue is not widely known. It addresses the growing global movement of "Rights of Nature." A group known as the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature believes that natural systems should not be treated as property. They hold that nature in all its life forms has the *right*

to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles and that an ecosystem should be able to be named as the injured party, with its own legal standing rights, in cases alleging rights violations.

According to the group's website, there are currently five counties in Florida, including Alachua and the Santa Fe River ecosystem, with advocacy groups working to have the intrinsic rights of their local ecosystems recognized by law. As such, the inclusion of this provision in the legislation



Representative Bobby Payne.

will go far in preventing problems before they start.

Employment Verification (SB664 by Sen. Lee and HB 1265 by Rep. Byrd)

Quite simply, these bills didn't even start moving until the halfway point of session. They were energized by Gov. DeSantis' comments regarding his desire to have Florida employers comply with E-Verify. Thankfully, in its final form, the bill provides employers two options to verify potential employees: the E-Verify system or the Federal I-9 process.

This issue lingered until the last week of the 2020 session. Several times the fate of this legislation was unclear. Some days were good news and some days were tense. A huge part of the successful outcome of this legislation was the absolute commitment from every business group to remain in lockstep on this issue. On several occasions, there were opportunities for individual stakeholders to separate from the flock on this legislation. However, we all stuck together, and the outcome could not have been more positive.

Public Records Exemption for Site-Specific Location of Endangered Species


(SB 812 by Sen. Travis Hutson, R-Palm Coast, and HB 549 by Rep. Toby Overdorf, R-Stuart) This legislation moved quietly through the process. As passed, the legislation exempts from public records the specific location of state or federal endangered, threatened or listed species.

A large photograph of a man, Steven Peter, standing in a forest. He is wearing a light-colored plaid short-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, a brown belt, and a white baseball cap. He has his hands on his hips and is smiling. The background is a dense forest of tall pine trees.

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— **Steven Peter,**
South Paw Forest Products
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Many thanks to Association lobbyist Jim Spratt for arranging an all-star line-up of speakers for the legislative briefing.

The exemption will sunset in 2025 unless the legislature takes action to make it permanent.

BUDGET

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:

Rural and Family Lands Program – \$8.6 million

Florida Forest Service aircraft replacement – \$671,000

Fire Suppression Equipment – \$7.4 million

UF/IFAS:

Workload \$3.8 million – This is a huge win for UF/IFAS as this was a fully funded request with a majority of the money being recurring dollars. Workload dollars allow UF/IFAS to fund research and upgrade equipment and facilities as well as potentially plug holes in programs and services.

Separate, yet important issues arose in the House of Representative regarding existing UF/IFAS programs, including \$1.1 million which funds specific programs and staff within the School of Forestry and Natural Resources. The funding was maintained during the budget conference process.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection:

Florida Forever – \$79 million

Springs Protection – \$50 million

COVID-19: The state budget directs \$52.5 million in state and federal dollars to purchase necessities related to

COVID-19. The 2020-21 budget also directs an additional \$300 million into state reserves. State reserve funds can be utilized when the governor has declared a state of emergency in order to provide immediate resources to combat the economic fallout of a natural disaster, health epidemic, or any other state emergency. This additional enhancement brings the total state reserves to nearly \$4 billion.

Notwithstanding the policy and budget success of the 2020 session, there

is no avoiding the impacts the coronavirus has already had and will continue to have on the state's economy. As we look forward to the summer months, it is unclear the challenges we will face as an industry and as individuals. The Association is maintaining open lines of communication with state and federal agencies regarding essential businesses, supply chains, employee issues, etc. This may prove to be a long road, but we will get through this together. •



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“2020 VISION”

ANNUAL MEETING

WE LOVE TO share good news, and we think this announcement is one of the best of the year so far: the Association’s 2020 Annual Meeting will proceed as planned!

The event will be held September 1-3 at the Omni Amelia Island Resort in Amelia Island, Florida.

“We have always prioritized the safety and well-being of our members, and we always will,” said Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. “We are working closely with the hotel to implement measures to maximize social distancing, hand sanitizing and other recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and professional meeting planning groups.”

“We are also offering a risk-free registration this year,” he continued. “We will provide full refunds on registrations cancelled by August 27 due to health or travel concerns related to COVID-19. That way everyone can rest easy in their decision to register early despite the uncertainty of the times.”

At the Omni, the majestic Atlantic Ocean pairs with Florida’s beautiful forests to create the perfect backdrop for this event. The open-air walkways to the rooms provide fresh ocean breezes, and the hotel’s convention center offers large, open meeting spaces.

The meeting will offer access to the latest and greatest industry information from the best speakers in the business. Topics cover a diverse territory specifically designed to benefit the full spectrum of attendees.

The state’s largest forestry trade show will again be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Exhibits featuring cutting-edge equipment and service providers will offer the latest and greatest developments in today’s marketplace for forestry professionals.

For more information about the Annual Meeting, please visit www.FLForestry.org/Annual-Meeting or call 850.222.5646. •



IMAGES COURTESY OF OMNI AMELIA ISLAND RESORT.



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ANNUAL MEETING & TRADE SHOW
SEPTEMBER 1-3
OMNI AMELIA ISLAND RESORT, AMELIA ISLAND, FL**

NEW THIS YEAR! REGISTER ONLINE AT FLFORESTRY.ORG/ANNUALMEETING

**For best rates, please submit by August 6, 2020, to Florida Forestry Association/P.O. Box 1696/
Tallahassee, FL 32302 • Phone 850.222.5646 • Krista@FLForestry.org**

Risk-free Registration: The Association will provide full refunds on registrations cancelled on or before August 27 due to health or travel concerns related to COVID-19. Full refunds will also be issued should the meeting have to be cancelled due to any executive orders in effect at the time.

Name: _____

Company Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Registered Spouse's Name: _____

Please provide your cell phone number (for staff emergency contact use only): _____

Your first name/nickname for your name badge: _____

Registered spouse's first name/nickname for name badge: _____

Full registration includes all receptions, Trade Show Social, Awards Breakfast, roundtables, general sessions and President's Dinner.

***One Day registration** includes Wednesday sessions and breaks only. Tickets to events cannot be purchased separately in conjunction with One Day registration. One Day spouse rates are available only with purchase of One Day registrations.

No registration fee is required for minor children, but tickets are required if they attend meals.

Registration	Early Registration on or before August 6, 2020	Regular and Onsite Registration after August 6, 2020	Number	Amount Due	
Full Registration	\$345	\$375			
Spouse (Full)	\$220	\$250			
One Day Registration*	\$200	\$225			
One Day Spouse*	\$75	\$100			SUB-TOTAL:

With FULL registration only, you may purchase tickets for additional guests for these events:

Event	Cost	Number Attending	Amount Due	
Awards Breakfast	\$40 each			
President's Dinner	\$85 each			
Master Logger Lunch*	\$45 each			
Golf Tournament**	\$95 each			SUB-TOTAL:

***MASTER LOGGER LUNCH IS OPEN TO EVERYONE. HOWEVER, ONLY MASTER LOGGERS REGISTERED FOR THE FULL MEETING MAY ATTEND AT NO CHARGE. OTHERS WISHING TO ATTEND MUST PURCHASE A TICKET BY AUGUST 21, 2020.**

****Golf is open to all Association members and their guests. Meeting registration is not required to play, but golfers must register in advance for the tournament to ensure a spot.**

Name of golfer _____ Handicap _____

If requesting a special team, please list players: _____

Other	Contribution	Number of Tickets/ Sponsor Level	Amount Due	
Firearm Raffle Tickets	\$20 each or 6 for \$100			
Annual Meeting Sponsorship (Details at FLForestry.org/Annual-Meeting)	\$100 minimum			
Exhibitor (Details at FLForestry.org/Annual-Meeting)	\$800			SUB-TOTAL:
TOTAL (Registrations, Extra Tickets, Golf, Raffle Tickets, Sponsorship)				GRAND TOTAL:

PAYMENT

Check: Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____, made payable to Florida Forestry Association.

Credit card: Please invoice me. My email address is _____.



Sunrise in Austin Cary Forest.
IMAGE COURTESY OF UF/IFAS SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION.

A NEW BEGINNING

USDA'S J. SCOTT ANGLE NAMED TO LEAD UF/IFAS

Provided by **UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA.

THE UNIVERSITY OF Florida has named J. Scott Angle director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, to lead the university's Institute of Food and Agricultural

Sciences (UF/IFAS) into the next decade. He is expected to assume the role as vice president for agriculture and natural resources on July 13.

Angle will oversee UF's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences with more than 6,000 students, the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, and the Florida Agricultural Experiment

Station's network of research centers. The announcement ends a 10-month national search to lead one of the country's largest and most accomplished organizations of its kind.

"Dr. Angle is a nationally recognized leader in agricultural science and administration. His passion for science, natural resources and service to the community will advance our work toward feeding a growing world population while reducing our use of resources needed to do it," UF President Kent Fuchs said. "During this critical time in Florida agriculture, he is the proven leader we need to adapt our traditional land-grant mission of teaching, research, and outreach to a 21st century context, contributing significantly to UF's drive to be a top-five university."

"Dr. Angle has a demonstrated record of innovative leadership," said Michael Perri, dean of F's College of Public Health and Health Professions and chair of the search committee. "His work has also driven scientific advances that underpin our state's second-largest industry and customized Extension to the needs of each local community it serves."

Angle spent more than 35 years in agricultural science and administration, including 25 years as a professor of soil science and administrator (Director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station and Maryland Cooperative Extension) at the University of Maryland. His early work focused on the study of losses of nutrients from agro-ecosystems, and their impact on the Chesapeake Bay. He also studied the impact of heavy metals on the food chain with the goal of protecting our food supply from these harmful elements.

From 2005 to 2015, Angle served as dean and director of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia. He is a fellow in the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America and a Fulbright Fellow having worked at the Rothamsted (Research) Experimental Station in the United Kingdom. He subsequently served as president and CEO of the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), an international public organization (IPO) dedicated to helping the poorest farmers of the world produce more food.

"My experience at NIFA gave me the opportunity to see university agriculture operations across the nation, and UF/IFAS is simply one of, if not the, best. Agriculture is changing faster than I have ever witnessed in my career," Angle

said. "Many challenges lie ahead, not the least of which is COVID-19, and its long-term implications for agriculture. UF/IFAS, however, is up to the challenge, and I am honored to be at the helm during such an important time for agriculture."

Not one to shy away from challenges, Angle recently oversaw the successful transition of NIFA operations from Washington, D.C., to Kansas City, Missouri, while ensuring mission continuity and service. UF/IFAS has been in transition mode during the coronavirus pandemic as well, pivoting quickly to remote learning and working, budgetary challenges and an industry in crisis.

"During my interview I noted that I thought UF/IFAS combined both applied science, teaching and extension with the basic sciences better than any other land-grant university in the world. It's the intersection of these functions where impact is made, and few institutions can compare with UF/IFAS in local, state, national and global impact," Angle added. "This is why I am so pleased to have been selected for this position. My wife, Kay, and I look forward to moving to Gainesville and becoming a part of the community."

Scott Angle succeeds Jack Payne, who is retiring after 10 years in that position. During Payne's tenure, CALS enrollment rose to record levels and faculty achieved a single-year record for grants and contracts. UF/IFAS built a honey bee lab, a professional development center, a biological station in Cedar Key, a teaching forest learning center, and a beef teaching unit headquarters among other advancements under Payne's leadership. •



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MANAGING OUR FORESTS: **BREEDING A SUPERIOR PINE**

By **KIM SCOTTO-KELLEY**, UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources & Conservation

TREES ARE AN incredible natural resource. They provide wildlife habitat, improve air quality, and of course, supply the raw materials for many vital industries. Toilet paper has recently had its moment in the spotlight, but forests support countless other products, from lumber for building homes to the cellulose used in our toothpaste.

To keep up with demand for wood, landowners can maximize their stand productivity, growing more timber on less acreage. Scientists with the UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) have spent more than half a century working to develop varieties of southern pine species that grow faster and have greater disease resistance.

The Cooperative Forest Genetics Research Program (CFGRP) was founded in 1953, and has continually been on the forefront of southern pine improvement projects. Over time, their research changed and evolved with the introduction of new technology.

Today, CFGRP researchers use methods their predecessors never would have dreamt of, like DNA genomic analysis.

"By using this advanced DNA technology, we can identify and select superior

trees for breeding and accelerate the genetic improvement of commercial forests," said Matias Kirst, SFRC professor and Co-Director of the CFGRP.

However, they can't do this work alone.

"The CFGRP works closely with landowner and industry member partners, called cooperators, who conduct genetic testing and breeding on their timberlands," said Gary Peter, SFRC professor and Co-Director of the CFGRP.

Over the years CFGRP cooperators have improved four native species of pine: longleaf, sand, loblolly, and slash, but today the focus is on loblolly and slash pine.

This collaborative research program has had an indelible impact on Florida forestry:

800 million genetically improved seedlings are produced by CFGRP members each year.

40-55% more usable wood can be harvested from a CFGRP variety of slash pine compared to unimproved varieties.

99% of slash pine seedlings planted in Florida were developed by the CFGRP.

The program also supports graduate students, like CFGRP Program Manager Andrew Sims.

"My experience with the CFGRP, first as a Ph.D. student but now also as the full-time program manager, has been great," said Sims.

Sims is responsible for coordinating breeding and testing, helping cooperators with data analysis, and training staff.

"In my job I do anything from developing rooted cuttings for clonal studies, to grafting or making crosses 60' up in a lift, carrying out quantitative genetics analyses, or developing tools to help our members better distribute information about the genetic resources our group has developed," he said.

Sims also enjoys the unique collaborative nature of the CFGRP. "We get to stay closely connected to industry needs while staying rooted in foundational research," he said. "I feel like I get to do what I love and what interests me, all while actively making our world better."

Want to learn more? The CFGRP provides technical assistance, research support, and educational resources needed to make sound genetic decisions for management of timberlands. View their website at: <https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/cfgrp/>. •



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"2020 VISION" MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

THE ASSOCIATION'S "2020 Vision" Membership Campaign kicked off on May 1 and will run through November 1.

"We're really excited about this campaign," said Director of Member Services Whitney Hough. "2020 is proving to be completely different than we envisioned, but it has brought into crystal clear focus how important unity is. No one needs to be going through all of this on their own."

"The more people and businesses we can help, the better," she said.



"And who better to explain the benefits of membership than our own members?"

Hough explained that the format of the campaign is simple: Participants receive one point for every dollar in dues generated from

the new members they recruit. The person who has accumulated the most points by November 1 wins. There is a 500-point minimum.

"Our friends at FLAG Credit Union are providing a \$500 gift card for the winner," Hough said. "We appreciate their generosity and support."

For more information about participating in the campaign or joining the Association, please email Whitney@FLForestry.org or call 850.222.5646. •



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

We will use the contact information provided below for our Membership Directory. All other information is kept confidential.

Recommended for membership by _____

Your Name _____

Company Name (if applicable) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Email _____

Membership category (see below) _____

If Associate/Vendor, please indicate type of business _____

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

Sales _____ Base _____ Employees _____ Trucks _____

Acreage _____ Production _____ Consumption _____ MCF treated _____

Total Dues Amount Paid _____

Please mail this form to:

Florida Forestry Association
P.O. Box 1696
Tallahassee FL 32302-1696

☐ Check enclosed - Payable to Florida Forestry Association.

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

☐ Credit Card Payment

Payment by check saves your Association a 4% processing fee on each credit card transaction. Please contact us at 850.222.5646 to pay by credit card.

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 = \$335

\$500,001-\$2.5M sales = \$460

over \$2.5M sales = \$1,020

Chemical Manufacturer — \$485

Consulting Forester — \$325 base (includes 1-owner), plus \$80 per technical employee

Contract Trucking Company —

1-10 trucks = \$130

11+ trucks = \$310

Forest Equipment Supplier —

Based on gross sales to the forest industry as follows:

up to \$10M sales = \$485

over \$10M sales = \$1,940

Hunting Club —

up to 3,000 acres = \$70

over 3,000 acres = \$195

Landowner —

up to 500 acres = \$90

501-1,000 acres = \$205

1,001-5,000 acres = \$505

5,001-10,000 acres = \$950

over 10,000 acres = \$405 base plus \$.081 /acre on total acreage

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

Production/Exports: \$205 base plus \$.0065/ton

Mulch Processor — \$1,580 per facility

Pine Straw —

up to 1M bales = \$225

over 1M bales = \$670

Plywood Plant/Pole & Piling Producer/Sawmill/Veneer

— Production: \$205 base plus \$.019/ton

Pulp & Paper/Oriented Strand Board/Utility/Bioenergy/Biofuel/Wood Pellet Producers —

(Base + Consumption of Florida wood + Acreage)

With no production: base = \$2,790

With production: base = \$8,080 per company +

consumption of Florida wood = \$.0065/ton +

acreage owned/leased = \$.081/acre on total acreage

Silvicultural Contractor (Applicator/Herbicide Distributor/Planting/Site Prep) —

Based on the total # of acres where any application is applied as follows:

up to 10,000 acres = \$205

over 10,000 acres = \$485

Treating Plant — \$.6 /MCF on all treated products

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 MEETING

NEARLY 100 PEOPLE gathered at the Hal Y. Maines Community Center in Lake Butler on Wednesday, March 4, for an Association membership meeting.

The event featured networking opportunities, issue updates from Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby and Director of Forestry and Regulatory Affairs Laura Bosworth, and a delicious lunch courtesy of ArborGen, Inc., and Farm Credit of Florida. We also appreciate our event sponsors who

made it possible for us to come to a new location: Jimmy Bielling, Phillip Pritchett, Austen Roberts and Avery Roberts.

Many thanks to all those who attended, and a warm welcome to our new members who joined at the event.

Unfortunately, our second membership meeting had to be canceled due to coronavirus concerns. The event was scheduled to be held on March 18 at Coastal Plywood Company's Magnolia Lodge in Quincy.

"We look forward to these meetings every year," said Director of Member Services Whitney Hough. "The cancellation was a huge disappointment for everyone, but the health and well-being of our members always comes first for us."

We remain grateful for the continuing support of our site host, Coastal Plywood Company, and our sponsors, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida and ArborGen, Inc. •



Association EVP Alan Shelby with congressional candidate and former aide to Rep. Ted Yoho, Kat Cammack.



Judy Adams (L) and Amy Jackson.



Farm Credit's Zak Seymour with USNR's Alan Robbins.



From left: Leonard Dicks with Mike Branch and Mike Lee.

IMAGES COURTESY OF FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.

2020 FLORIDA FORESTRY TEACHERS' TOUR CANCELED

COVID-19 HAS claimed yet another victim – the 2020 Florida Forestry Teachers' Tour (FETT). Scheduled for June 16-19, the tour's dates were too deeply embedded in the novel coronavirus's cone of uncertainty for comfort.

The tour brings 45 teachers from across the state to Fernandina Beach to see first-hand how forestry works in Florida.

Participating teachers experience all aspects of forestry practices, from the planting and growing processes to the mills and end products. They also learn about chemical by-products created in the process of making paper. In short, they see first-hand the industry's many efforts to maximize the effective and efficient use of resources.

"The tour is an incredibly effective and powerful tool for sharing forestry's story," said Erin Albury, State Forester

and Director of the Florida Forest Service. "However, there are currently too many unknowns related to the COVID-19 pandemic gripping our state to confidently ensure we could carry out the tour safely and effectively this year."

"At the end of the day, the health and safety of our teachers, our hosts and their employees at the various sites visited, and everyone involved in the tour have to be our priority," said Association EVP Alan Shelby.

Funds for the canceled Teacher's Tour will be rolled over to the 2021 FETT.

"Cancelling the tour was a difficult decision and certainly a disappointment, but we look forward to reconvening in the fall to begin planning for the 2021 tour," said Jennifer Hart, Deputy Chief of Field Operations for FFS Region II, who heads up the FETT planning committee.

Much appreciation goes out to all those who contributed to the 2020 tour:

Callahan Timber Company
Coastal Plywood Company
Dave Norton & Diann Douglas
Forest Investment Associates
Four Rivers Land & Timber Company LLC
Friends of Florida State Forests, Inc.
Greg & Martina Driskell
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RECEPTION SPOTLIGHTS FORESTRY WITH A “Taste of Florida”

BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE session began, the Association participated in the annual “Taste of Florida” reception hosted in the capitol courtyard by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Farm Bureau Federation.

The reception shines the spotlight on the state’s production of food and fiber. The Association set up a display highlighting the importance of Florida forestry, including a seedling giveaway. Several Association leaders who had taken part in the Working Forest Partners meeting earlier in the day also joined us for the legislative reception. •



From left: Association Vice President Carlton Jones, Assistant Director of Agriculture Education Services & Technology, Inc. Tracee Shiebel, Association Director of Forestry and Regulatory Affairs Laura Bosworth, President Edward Cole, Past President Lynetta Usher Griner, Executive Committee member Jimmy Bielling and Executive Vice President Alan Shelby.



Association lobbyist Jim Spratt (center) with his wife Sharon and Association board member Ryan Pavlik.



Association Past President Michael Dooner (left) with current president Edward Cole.

IMAGES COURTESY OF FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.



Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby (left) with Executive Committee member Jimmy Bielling.



Forestry roots grow deep in some family trees! Association Board member Cindy Littlejohn with her daughter Jamie Harper Sheehan, husband Chuck Littlejohn, and their grandson Henry.



Florida Agriculture in the Classroom Executive Director Becky Sponholtz displays the 2019 Ag Literacy book, Forever There's a Forest.



The Greens of Madison County are another deep-rooted forestry family! Longstanding Board member Bubba Greene and his wife Maria with their son, Tanner, and daughter, Jennifer.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BAD BUG?

The destructive emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found in 24 states, including Georgia and Louisiana. Floridians should be on the lookout for this pernicious pest and report any EAB signs or symptoms to the Florida Forest Service at (352) 395-4689 or Jeffrey.Eickwort@FDACS.gov.



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