

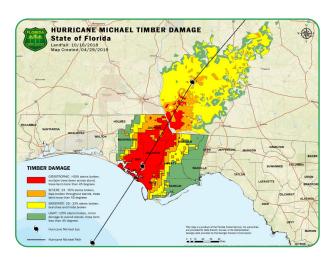
PINES & NEEDLES

Winter 2020

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HURRICANE MICHAEL TIMBER RECOVERY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS STILL BEING ACCEPTED



Registration for the Florida Timber Recovery Block Grant Program is available to forest landowners who suffered damage from Hurricane Michael in October 2018. The original registration deadline was November 20, 2020, but applications submitted after that date will be considered if funding is available.

For questions about the registration or application process, call the Florida Division of Emergency Management hotline at 850-270-8317.

Find complete information and register on their website, Florida Disaster.org/Timber.

FMCSA PROPOSED YOUNG DRIVER PILOT PROGRAM

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) published a proposed pilot program earlier this fall that would allow younger drivers between 18 and 20 to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) across state lines.

Currently, 49 states and the District of Columbia allow 18, 19, and 20-year-olds to drive trucks *within* state lines. These same drivers, however, are not allowed to drive a CMV on the interstate. The pilot program is modeled off of the DRIVE Safe Act. The proposed pilot program will allow the FMCSA to examine the safety, feasibility, and potential economic benefits of allowing 18 to 20-year-old drivers to operate on the interstate.

USDA SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON GUIDANCE DEFINING NONINDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FOREST LAND ELIGIBILITY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking public input on Nonindustrial Private Forest Land (NIPF) related to technical and financial assistance available through conservation programs of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"We want to ensure we continue program consistency across USDA agencies with how we are defining nonindustrial private forest lands," said Juan Hernandez, NRCS State Conservationist in Florida. "It's important that our conservation assistance reach all eligible lands in accordance with proper criteria to ensure we enroll eligible lands that hold meaningful opportunities."

Nonindustrial private forest land criteria will be adopted after the close of the 30-day period and after consideration of all comments. NRCS invites input on this technical guidance through January 19, 2021. Electronic comments must be submitted through regulations.gov under Docket ID NRCS-2020-0009. All written comments received will be publicly available online at Regulations.gov.

REMINDER: CDL DRUG AND ALCOHOL CLEARINGHOUSE

For those in the forestry community who either work as or employ CDL drivers, it is important to review the requirements for your drug and alcohol testing program and to register for the Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse.

To stay in compliance and help support their efforts ...

CDL employers must:

- **Register.** Everyone who employs a CDL driver must register, including those without a DOT number.
- Run a query on existing employees by the end of 2020.

Those holding CDL licenses must:

• **Register** with the clearinghouse in order to authorize queries by employer.

Learn more on our website under the Resources tab: FLForestry.org/Resources/Drug-Alcohol-Clearinghouse.

TREEPAC SUCCESS

TREEPAC, the Association's political action committee, contributed \$61,000 to 65 candidates in the 2020 election cycle. Ultimately, an impressive 58 of those candidates were successful in their bid for office.

TREEPAC is nonpartisan and contributed to the campaigns of Democrats and Republicans who support the forest industry.

TREEPAC Chair Avery Roberts attributed TREEPAC's success to the support of Association members: "Once again, support from our members made it possible for TREEPAC to help elect candidates who will work to protect our ability to grow, harvest and use Florida's forest resources," he said.

SENATOR BRADLEY SEES FORESTRY STORY IN ACTION



The Association hosted a forestry tour for incoming Senator Jennifer Bradley, highlighting the importance of Florida's forest industry in Senate District 5.

Focusing on the economic impacts of Florida's forest industry throughout the district's 11-county area, tour stops included a logging and site-prep operation by Usher Land & Timber and a sawmill tour at Cross City Lumber.

State Legislative Session Dates to Remember

March 2, 2021 - Session Convenes

March 10, 2021 – Board Meeting/Capitol Visits (tentative)

April 30, 2021 – Sine Die (Session Ends)

COGONGRASS TREATMENT FUNDING AVAILABLE



The Nature Conservancy's North Florida Program has funding available for 120 total acres of cogongrass treatment in counties surrounding the Apalachicola National Forest.

Private landowners in Calhoun, Gadsden, and Liberty Counties who would like to be considered for this funding should contact Brian Pelc, (850) 222-0199 x103, bpelc@tnc.org

WAYNE SMITH TO BE INDUCTED INTO FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME



Please join us in congratulating longtime Association member Wayne Smith for being selected for induction into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Dr. Smith's contributions to Florida agriculture encompass his lifelong devotion to education and research and forestry passion. Smith, a native of Marianna, Florida and graduate of the University of Florida, returned to his alma mater in 1964, advancing through the academic ranks as a professor, director, and finally, professor emeritus. In retirement, he served as interim dean for UF/IFAS Research and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. He proved to be a groundbreaking educator, researcher, and administrator.

Smith played a crucial part in developing and implementing the first Best Management Practices (BMPs) for silviculture. BMPs soon spread across Florida's agricultural industry and changed the face of agriculture. His research in fertilization led to practices that increased pine forest productivity by up to 300%. And his pioneering work in bio-energy made Florida a leader and earned accolades from the U.S. Department of Energy. Smith's work has been recognized around the globe, including an audience with royalty. He has been a consultant for the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization and has been called upon to testify before Congress.

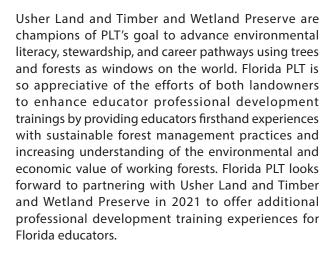
The induction ceremony was originally scheduled to be held at the annual Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame Banquet at the Florida State Fair in Tampa in February 2021. Last week it was announced that the state fair has been postponed until sometime in April due to COVID-19, so the banquet will be delayed as well.

Tickets for the banquet will cost \$75 each. They will be available for purchase through the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame website at FloridaAgHallofFame.org in the near future. We will keep you posted as plans progress.

FLORIDA PLT RECOGNIZES USHER LAND AND TIMBER AND WETLAND PRESERVE AS 2020 PARTNERS OF THE YEAR



Florida Project Learning Tree (PLT) has recognized the contributions of Ken and Lynetta Griner (Usher Land and Timber) and Ben and Louann Williams (Wetland Preserve) as Partners of the Year. In addition to ongoing support of Florida PLT, these two landowners have contributed time and effort in planning and hosting PLT professional development trainings at their working forests.



If you own or manage a working forest and are interested in hosting a PLT educator professional development training or sharing a story about your forest with educators at a virtual training, contact Jessica Ireland, FL PLT Coordinator, at jitireland@ufl.edu.

BIELLING WINS 2020 VISION MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN CONTEST



Jimmy Bielling of Bielling Site Prep and Reforestation was named the winner of the Association's 2020 Vision Membership Campaign Contest!



Bielling is a longtime member of the Association and currently serves as its Vice President. "Forestry is my

passion, and being part of the Association allows me to work alongside people who share that passion," he said. "There's strength in numbers, and I like to let people know they don't have to stand alone."

Bielling has generously donated the prize, a \$500 gift card courtesy of FLAG Credit Union, back to the Association. Many thanks to Jimmy Bielling, FLAG Credit Union, and all those who participated in the membership campaign!

KARELS JOINS NRPS



Natural Resource Planning Services has announced the addition of James R. "Jim" Karels to its consulting forestry firm. He is the retired State Forester and Director of the Florida Forest Service, serving in that capacity from 2008 until 2020.

Karels is a national leader in prescribed burning, wildfire suppression, and land management with more than 39 years of experience in these fields. He has held numerous national leadership positions including his service as President of the National Association of State Foresters. His awards and accolades are substantial, including induction into the Florida Society of American Foresters Hall of Fame and the Florida Forestry Association's Distinguished Service Award, among many others.

He can be reached at JimK@NRPSForesters.com

RESOLVE TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT FORESTRY!

Florida forestry has a uniquely positive story to tell. The environmental services forests provide are invaluable. Its forests are sustainable and renewable. Its products are in demand. And its people are passionate about their work and the difference they are making.

Florida forestry has a far-reaching effect economically as well as environmentally. It not only impacts the forestland owners, loggers, consulting foresters, silvicultural operations, mills and production facilities, it also creates a ripple effect of support for many local businesses that the industry touches.

"We are continuing to use all of our peripheral products, services and industries," noted Association President Carlton Jones. "When you think about all the businesses we work with that were able to keep their doors open in 2020 because we didn't close ours, that's important."

If you are fortunate enough to be part of the forestry family, be proud of what you bring to the table. Be excited that you are part of the solution to many current problems. And be motivated to help others learn about all the good things that you and your forestry family are doing to make the world a better place.

This is the kind of good news that needs to be shared right now. With a new year comes a clean slate. Let's fill that slate with the good news of Florida forestry!

No one else tells your part of the story like you do. Resolve now to make 2021 the year your voice is heard.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to all our new members who joined the Association in the past year!

4D Builders, Inc.

Folsom, Walter

Old Florida Hunt Club, LLC

99th Ave Hunt Club

Four Mile Hunting Club

Oman, Christopher

Pafford, James

Anchor Consulting, LLC

Gateway Beagle Club

Pattison, William

R&K Farms, Inc.

Greene, Matt

B&K Farms, Inc.Greene, MattPhillips, AnnB6 Real Estate Group LLCGrisham, David & TenaPope, Cody

BASF Guthrie, Elizabeth Porterfield, Carrie

BDL Hunting Club H and W Timber LLC Prendergast, Elaine

Berry Tree Removal H. W. Express, LLC Prospect Communities LLC

Bispham, Jack Hall, Riley Pullam, Anthony
Black Dog Firewood, Inc Hall, Terri Pullan, Kevin
Bloxham Bruisers Hunt Club Harris, Anita Rembert, Davis
BLUE AND SHIVER ENT Hatchet Creek Tree Farm Ripley, Frances

Blue Sky Landscaping & Hodge, Timothy Riverland Trucking, Inc.
Ground Maintenance, Inc.

HT Ranch, LLC Robertson, Preston
Blue Wolf Capital Partners
Industrus Solutions Robinson, Ricky
Bohannon, Hubert Jeffrey Kyle Holcomb, LLC Rogers, Walter
Brasington, Charles Jenkins, Robert Rushing Family Club

Brasington, Charles

Jenkins, Robert

Rushing Family Club

Sago Properties II, LLC

Bruner Hunt Club

Johnson, George

Brunson, Chris

Johnson, Olivia

Senior Year Hunt Club

Joseph George

Shell Ashten

Buck Fever Hunting Club

Joseph, George

Shell, Ashton

Sigers, Larry

Cabbage Ford Hunt Club

Landscape Products, Inc.

Caldwell, Matt

Leavins Family Hunting Club

Sims, Stephen

Cammack, Kat

LeBland Dayson

LeBlanc, Dewey

Campbell, Dale

Lee's Tree Farm

Sperry, Zaccaria

Chance Farm

Legna Software

Spivey, Garrett

Light of the Lord Trucking, LLC

Spotts, Rhonda

Cobble, Brian

Marsilliat Mark

Columbia County Hunting Club

Complete Cleaning and More

Marcilliat, Mark

Marcilliat, Mark

Maxwell, Walter

McGehee, Mark

Stokes, Morgan

Swallow-Tailed Kite Properties, LLC

Sweetwater Branch Farm

CWM Whitson Holdings, LLC

Mikes Hunting Club

Sylvester, Philip

D & L Land Management, Inc.

Magazin Branch Llunt Club

Talagia Tig & Timb or LLC

Moccasin Branch Hunt Club Telogia Tie & Timber, LLC Darnell, Matthew Monreal, Isreal Thomas, Brian Davis, Gene Morales, Jaime Thompson, Curtis Diercks, Lee Nabell, Robert Triple D Hunt Club Dill, Steve Nelson, Don Turpentine Land, LLC English, Ronald Nelson, Mike Wagon Wheel 88 Ranch Inc. Farnell, James

Fernell, James Nieves, Joey White, Rebecca
Feliberty, Christian North Walton Land, LLC Yarley, William
Ferguson, James Novak, Karl Young, James
Flag Credit Union Odell, Kay Zee, April

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

The success of any organization is highly dependent on an engaged membership. An easy and effective way to be active in the Association is through our committees: Government Relations, TREEPAC, Environmental, Steering, and Communications.

To learn more about the Association's committees and their missions, please visit the Association's website at FLForestry.org/Programs/Committees.

WANT MORE BUCKS?



Saving money is always a good thing!

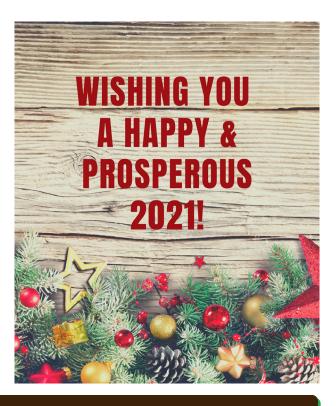
Partnering with Outdoor Underwriters, Inc., the Association offers our members special reduced rates for liability insurance for hunting leases and timberland.

Contact Director of Forestry & Regulatory Affairs Laura Bosworth (Laura@FLForestry.org or 850.222.5646) for more information.

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Consider making a gift of a lifetime to support the future of Florida's working forests by naming the Florida Forestry Association or Florida Forestry Foundation as a beneficiary in your will, charitable trust, life insurance policy, estate plan or retirement plan.

Please contact Alan Shelby at 850.222.5646 for more information.



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