



FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

PINES AND NEEDLES

January - February 2013 Volume 68, Issue 1



Help Rebuild the Austin Cary Memorial Forest Learning Center

Support is needed to rebuild the Austin Cary Memorial Forest (ACMF) Classroom/Conference Center. This significant building to forestry burned to the ground on July 19, 2011.

The School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) faculty, students, friends and other volunteers, provided the resources to build the initial Center in 1986. Through the years, ACMF served the SFRC and other UF Students, the forestry profession and the broader community with some 5,000 visitors each year. The Center was also used for meetings for non-governmental organizations, the county commission and other governmental groups, as well as many other functions, including social events such as weddings. All who visited the Center experienced the quiet solitude of the forest on the drive in and enjoyed the view of the lake - and its resident alligator - from the Center's deck. For many, this was their first visit to the woods; just being there raised their awareness of our forests and their value.

Hopes are to rebuild and rename the structure the Austin Cary Memorial Forest Learning Center. It is projected that the new Center will be able to serve 25,000 visitors each year as a result of expanded capacity including breakout rooms; new targeted programs; superior IT and internet technology additions; and enhanced marketing. Alumni, friends and others who appreciate the importance that this Center brings to our business and heritage are encouraged to make a financial contribution in support of this effort.

FFA has committed to raise \$10,000 for this important project. A fund has been established through the Florida Forestry Foundation (FFF) to collect donations. FFF is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Your donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. Checks should be made payable to the Florida Forestry Foundation and mailed to the FFA office. Invoices are available upon request.



FFA Regional Membership Meeting

FFA held its first regional membership meeting of the year on Monday, February 4, at Coastal Plywood's beautiful Magnolia Plantation near Quincy. Approximately 90 people participated, making the event an even bigger success than anticipated.

Guests were able to network with friends old and new; dine on fabulous seafood prepared by the Seineyard; and take part in an open forum to discuss issues of importance to the various sectors of our forestry community.

FFA thanks members Michael Dooner and Donnie Fleming for spearheading this event. We are looking forward to hosting similar meetings in other regions and will keep you posted as plans for those events progress.

This opportunity was made possible by the following event sponsors:

- American Forest Management
- ArborGen Inc.
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Comprehensive Statewide Forest Inventory Analysis Project

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) entered into contract for Comprehensive Statewide Forest Inventory Analysis Project with Photo Science Geospatial Solutions of Saint Petersburg, Florida. The Photo Science Company is teaming up with F4 Tech of Tallahassee and BioResource Management of Gainesville, Florida, to conduct the project.

Information resulting from this project will augment that of the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. The Contractors will use remote sensing techniques plus the latest FIA data as a baseline for their inventory and analytical approaches. The objectives of the project are to identify where and how much timber biomass resources are available statewide and locally. The project will determine (in green tons) current timber volumes, growth, and utilization levels, which will allow assessment of local and statewide forest sustainability by comparing timber utilization levels to corresponding timber growth.

The project was authorized by the 2012 Florida Energy Bill (HB 7117). FDACS must submit the results of the study to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Executive Office of the Governor by July 1, 2013.

Environmental Law Manuals Available

The **FFA Environmental Law Manual**, a comprehensive compilation of federal, state and regional regulations affecting forest management practices, has been recently reprinted and is available for \$225, tax included. The manual is an invaluable aid to landowners and managers who need up to date knowledge of the regulations they must comply with on a daily basis. To place an order, contact Vickie Allen at 850.222.5646 or Vickie@ForestFla.org.

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ACTION PLAN – 2013-2014

FFA committees, their goals, and the specific action steps required to implement the Association's Strategic Plan

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS Committee • Jon Rashleigh, Chair; Alan Shelby, Staff

Goal: To be the voice of forest landowners, forest products producers, consuming mills and all forest interests in governmental affairs.

Actions:

- * Advocate governmental policies that strengthen and expand opportunities for landowners, loggers and wood conversion facilities.
- * Monitor and track legislation favorable/unfavorable to Association members.
- * Invite legislative and agency leaders to Welcome Reception at annual meeting.

TREE PAC Committee • Edward Cole, Chair; Alan Shelby, Staff

Goal: To raise sufficient funding to help support and influence the election of state legislative candidates that support and understand the forestry community.

Actions:

- * Raise \$50,000 (29% increase) for the 2013 - 2014 election cycle through voluntary contributions associated with annual dues invoice and a direct mail solicitation.
- * Recognize TREE PAC contributors through publications and a poster at the annual meeting registration desk.
- * Coordinate delivery/bundling of campaign contributions when possible.
- * Meet with and interview legislative candidates to assist staff in making recommendations.

STEERING Committee • Jim Cottingham, Chair; Debbie Bryant, Staff

Goal: To grow the Association's membership, increase sponsorships, and inspire interest in Association activities.

Actions:

- * Communicate the success story of FFA.
 - Identify tangible benefits of belonging to FFA for each segment.
 - Research possible discounts for members (uniforms, equipment, tires, filters, forestry suppliers, vendors, etc.).
- * Recruit members.
 - Identify and target large landowners and identify and assign board members to recruit and follow-up with members on progress.
- * Conduct regional membership meetings.
- * Develop a strategy to increase sponsorships for Annual Meeting.
- * Engage the Forestry Forward group in membership recruitment efforts.
- * Develop an exit survey instrument as a follow-up with cancelled members.

ENVIRONMENTAL Committee • David Harrelson, Chair; Phil Gornicki, Staff

Goal: To monitor emerging environmental issues that may impact the forestry community.

Actions:

- * Conduct two information exchange forums to keep Committee members updated on emerging environmental issues.
- * Help identify tangible benefits of belonging to the FFA.
- * Identify federal, state, and local government boards and commissions and citizens advisory committees that FFA would like to be part of and research timing for appointments.
- * Identify FFA members for federal, state, and local government boards and commission appointments, elected positions and citizens advisory committees.
- * Proactively follow issues of importance and notify Governmental Relations Committee when "call to action" is appropriate.

COMMUNICATIONS Committee • Katelyn Crow Landrum, Chair; Lee Ann Fisch, Staff

Goal: To build and maintain an effective communications program to reach association members, government, news media, the public and prospects with relevant forestry messages.

Actions:

- * Focus media and member outreach to correspond with legislative agenda and membership recruitment efforts.
 - Develop member benefit communication tools on tangible benefits of belonging.
- * Finalize and launch the new website and promote through e-mail and publications; utilize the committee to continually update and improve web content.
- * Increase FFA's social media presence.
 - Utilize Facebook and Twitter as a tool for communication and awareness.
- * Continue discussions and develop a strategy for a joint magazine publication with FFA, FFS and UF/IFAS, when the magazine contract expires in Oct. 2014.
- * Develop and utilize a single logo design to effectively brand FFA and all of its publications.
- * Develop and offer Association branded products (license plates, window decals, mouse pads) to members attending various functions, to help raise FFA's profile.
- * Encourage and explore incentives for members to receive information electronically.
- * Review and make recommendations regarding BIPAC.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- * Administer the two-day initial Master Logger training program.
- * Maintain the database for the Master Logger program.
- * Facilitate Master Logger annual update training courses.
- * Administer the Florida Tree Farm program.
- * Provide staff support to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- * Provide staff support for insurance program with Outdoor Underwriters.

www.FloridaForest.org

The FFA website has recently undergone a complete transformation. Featuring news feeds, photo galleries, and information on all of the Association's programs, events and activities, www.floridaforest.org is sure to become your new favorite bookmark!

One reviewer calls it a "...stunning site. Great visuals and clever organization of content. Really good stuff."

FFA is now also on Facebook (www.Facebook.com/FloridaForestryAssociation) and on Twitter (@FlForestryAssoc).

GET INVOLVED!

At FFA, membership matters.

The success of any association depends upon an active and engaged membership. Three easy steps will put you on the path to making a difference for your Association and your industry:

- 1) Check the circle beside the committee of your choice and fill out the contact information.
- 2) Return this form to FFA by mailing it to the address at the bottom OR email your committee choice and contact information to Vickie@ForestFla.org.
- 3) Attend the next committee meeting. We expect committees to meet no more than twice each year; in some cases, members will be able to participate through conference calls.

It's quick. It's simple. It makes a difference.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE and ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

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- STEERING
- ENVIRONMENTAL
- COMMUNICATIONS

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*Florida Forestry Association
P.O. Box 1696
Tallahassee, FL 32302*

Vickie@ForestFla.org

2013 PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

TRUCKING WEIGHTS

Issue Status:

Rising fuel prices, foreign competition and increased traffic on highway infrastructure have fueled an outcry for increased trucking weights across the nation. We have been and continue to be a vocal supporter of a permanent increase in truck weights on federal highways. In 2010, the state legislature approved an increase in weights up to 88,000 pounds on non-interstate highways.

Florida Forestry Association Position:

The Association supports federal legislation to permanently increase truck weights for transporters of ag and forestry products on federal interstate highways.

TAXES, FEES AND EXEMPTIONS

Issue Status:

Though the latest state budget estimates show the potential for a slight surplus, as state lawmakers begin to implement changes in health care, Medicaid and state employee retirement benefits, these estimates can quickly turn the other way. As a result, all forms of existing and potential state revenue streams may be on the table. These may include but are not limited to greenbelt property tax assessments; ag and forestry state sales tax exemptions; and a severance tax.

Florida Forestry Association Position:

The Association is opposed to any legislation that will increase fees or the tax burden for bona-fide agriculture and forestry operations.

WILDLIFE BMP DEVELOPMENT

Issue Status:

The Department of Agriculture (DACS) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) have recently engaged in discussions regarding the development of wildlife best management practices (BMPs) for forestry and other forms of agriculture. The most current proposal is for the wildlife BMP development process – which up to now has been carried out through FWC – to be redirected to DACS and its existing BMP Technical Advisory Committees (TAC).

Florida Forestry Association Position:

Since FWC plans to proceed with the development of Wildlife BMPs, the Association supports the following positions:

- * The Wildlife BMP development process for forestry practices should be directed entirely to the DACS forestry BMP TAC.
- * The final product should be a set of practical, easily understood and applied wildlife BMPs.
- * The sole purpose for the development of wildlife BMPs should be to serve as an alternative to the need to obtain an incidental take permit for a specified set of imperiled species.
- * The new BMPs should exist as a completely separate document from the current silvicultural BMP manual.
- * Any future revisions to these new wildlife BMPs for forestry should be developed through the DACS forestry BMP TAC.
- * Wildlife BMPs should only be used as voluntary measures, to be used at a landowner's discretion.
- * The FWC should be the adopting agency for any wildlife BMPs developed through the DACS forestry BMP TAC.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Issue Status:

Over the past few years, legislation has been proposed to require employers to use the federal E-Verify system to verify the legal status of its workers.

Florida Forestry Association Position:

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.

BUDGET ISSUES

Florida Forest Service – Budget Priorities

Replace Firefighting Equipment	\$5 Million
Replace Firefighter Communication Equipment	\$780,000
Overtime Pay	\$150,900
Rural & Family Lands Protection Program	\$5.25 Million

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GREEN BUILDING CERTIFICATION

Issue Status:

Florida Statutes require the adoption of a green building rating system for state and local construction projects. They further define a sustainable green building model as one of four rating systems, of which three give equal credit to wood products certified by all programs -- Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), American Tree Farm System (ATFS) and Florida Stewardship Council (FSC).

Following the directive of an Executive Order adopted by former Governor Charlie Crist, the state's Department of Management Services (DMS) adopted the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) standard as its model for green building certification. Unfortunately, this is the one option in statute that only recognizes wood products certified by FSC. Florida has only 120 acres of FSC certified acres, while nearly 2.7 million acres are certified under SFI and the ATFS.

Florida Forestry Association Position:

The Association continues to work with Gov. Rick Scott's office to encourage the DMS to endorse and offer an alternative green building rating system that gives equal credit for wood products certified by all programs, thus allowing Florida's forest growers and manufacturers to compete for new public construction projects. The Association supports legislation to expand the green building rating systems offered for state construction projects.

DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLIES

Issue Status:

Population growth has taxed Florida's natural resources, especially the waters of the Florida aquifer system. Hydrologists and other experts indicate excessive consumptive water withdrawals and compromised recharge zones are the cause. Lakes and waterways have experienced dramatic drops in water levels, and there are major areas of saltwater intrusion along the coastline. Springs from central Georgia to southern Florida are experiencing reduced or intermittent flows, and wells throughout the state are drying up.

Desalination is a possible solution, but it is too costly for use on a statewide basis. Water storage is a more viable and lower-cost solution, particularly near growing population centers. Our forestlands provide valuable ecosystem services in the form of clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, and expansive open space for recreation.

Lengthier consumptive use permits for water utilities would enable them to raise revenue in advance to fund the infrastructure needs for these alternative water solutions, such as water storage on private lands.

Florida Forestry Association Position:

The Association supports legislative initiatives to further develop sustainable alternative water supplies by providing the necessary tools and resources to bring permanent solutions to our future water needs.

ENERGY CODE/WOOD PRODUCTS

Issue Status:

The 2012 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) was approved in October 2010. It is being promoted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to become the principal energy code for use in residential construction. This new code provides four methods for thermal efficiency compliance, though the simplest method requires the use of foam sheathing in place of wood products.

Florida Forestry Association Position:

The Association is opposed to any legislation that will mandate or encourage wood alternative building materials in residential construction.

AG LANDS AND PRACTICES ACT

Issue Status:

The Ag Lands and Practices Act was adopted in 2003, prohibiting county governments from adopting any new ordinance regulating a farm or forestry practice beyond what is regulated through adopted best management practices or through a state, regional, local or federal agency. In 2011, legislation was passed making this provision retroactive for all county ordinances adopted prior to 2003, excluding wetlands protection ordinances. While this has been very effective, an effort is now underway to expand this preemption from counties to local governments.

Florida Forestry Association Position:

The Association supports legislation that expands the Ag Lands and Practices Act from "counties" to "local government."

Legal Battle Over Forest Roads Continues

A coalition of forestry stakeholders has filed a motion to intervene in the Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NEDC) v U.S. EPA case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. NEDC is challenging the new EPA rule clarifying that logging is not an industrial activity under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and forest roads do not need a federal permit.

Also, parties in the "forest roads" U.S. Supreme Court case filed supplemental briefs on January 22 to the Supreme Court. The Court invited the briefs to help determine the impact of the new EPA rule (now under challenge) that surprised the Justices during oral arguments last December on the forest roads case. The Solicitor General, along with Oregon and industry petitioners, urged the Supreme Court to remove the Ninth Circuit's May 2011 decision as case law precedent going forward.

With ongoing litigation and uncertainty about a favorable decision from the Supreme Court (expected by July), work continues with Congress on legislation to establish once and for all that forest roads are nonpoint sources and to preserve the policy that has been a CWA success story for the past 35 years.



Forestry at the State Fair

It didn't take a village, but it did take a creative team of dedicated staff and volunteers to put together this year's impressive displays in the Forestry Discovery Center at the Florida State Fair in Tampa. Many thanks and kudos go to our friends at the Florida Forestry Service and to FFA members Patsy Nathe and Jack Vogel.

Sponsor a Teacher

The 2013 Florida Forest Teachers' Tour will be held June 18-21, 2013. Teachers testify that participating in this event changes the way they think about forests. It also provides information and tools they can use in the classroom to give their students -- our future decision-makers -- a clearer understanding of our industry. Thanks to sponsors, teachers are able to participate at no cost to themselves. One hundred percent of all donations are used to provide accommodations, meals, transportation, materials and refreshments for this three-day learning adventure.

The Florida Forestry Foundation (FFF) needs companies and individuals to sponsor teachers for \$500. FFF is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization so donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. Please contact Vickie at 850.222.5646 or Vickie@ForestFla.org for more information.

Tree Farm Tour

The Florida Tree Farm Committee will host a tour of the Gould Tree Farm in Washington County. The tour is scheduled for March 26; it will be from 9:00 AM CDT until 1:00 PM CDT.



Please plan on attending to learn more about tree farming and to enjoy good fellowship. Lunch will be provided. Contact Roy Lima by March 20 (850-414-9934 or Roy.Lima@FreshFromFlorida.com) to RSVP and to get more information.

EPA Releases Finalized Boiler MACT Rule

The Boiler MACT and related Non-Hazardous Secondary Material (NHSM) rules were released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in December. While still under review by the forest products industry, they appear to be a significant improvement over EPA's original stance and previous proposals. The June 2010 proposals would have cost the forest products industry at least \$9 billion in capital; were technically unachievable; and severely disadvantaged biomass boilers. The final rules are projected to cost less than \$3 billion.

While many in the industry continue to be very concerned about cumulative effects of these and other rules on the industry, the progress made on Boiler MACT is the result of extensive and sustained efforts by industry representatives with the Hill and at all levels in EPA.

Pines & Needles

We invite comments and suggestions.

Let us know what you think by writing us at:

P.O. Box 1696, Tallahassee, Florida 32302;

by phoning us at: (850) 222-5646;

emailing: info@forestfla.org;

or by faxing us at: (850) 222-6179

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2013 Coming Events

Mar 5	Communications Committee Meeting	Aug 7	Executive Committee Meeting
Mar 5-May 3	Legislative Session	Sep 3-5	Annual Meeting • Trade Show • Golf
Mar 19	Board of Directors Meeting		Check out program details at www.floridaforest.org
May 8	Executive Committee Meeting		("What We Do/Annual Meeting")

For more information on what's happening at Florida Forestry Association, visit our web site at www.floridaforest.org!