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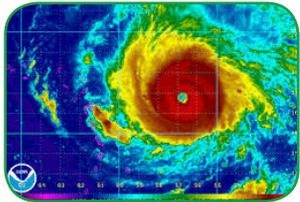
PINES & NEEDLES

Fall 2017

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HURRICANE IRMA



When Hurricane Irma blasted her way through Florida in early September, she touched most of the state. The damage to timber was heaviest in areas south

of Orlando; damage in the areas north of there was light. Widespread flooding and erosion caused extensive damage to forest roads throughout the impacted areas. Assessment and salvage efforts were impeded by water and debris on the roads.

As reported by Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Adam Putnam, the estimated timber losses for the current year are more than \$260,000,000. That figure is based on estimates from the Florida Forest Service and UF/IFAS.

Not only will financial damages continue to be felt as the growing cycle continues, but other significant storm-related damage can happen after the fact as well. If not removed in a timely manner, the fallen trees set a stage for several potential problems. They add to the fuel load for wildfires and can increase the chances of issues with invasive species or other pests, such as the southern pine beetle.

Additionally, increased reforestation efforts are needed to compensate for the loss of the damaged trees.

The Association has identified two major ways the State can help in recovery efforts:

Lifting truck weights. Lifting truck weights helps in salvage and recovery efforts. They were lifted post-Irma and are expected to remain suspended for up to three months. However, under the current permit system, this is done in two-week intervals. By issuing orders that are effective for 30 or 60 days, the Florida Department of Transportation could help ease the administrative burdens of communicating the extensions and printing new permits needed for each truck. The longer timeframe is also more in line with the salvage window before pests and disease damage the fallen timber, which is up to 90 days in most cases.

Funding the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Legislative Budget Request for the *Protecting Florida Resources* program.

This cost-share program would be helpful to forest landowners in addressing post-storm issues, such as increased needs for fuel mitigation/reduction and prescribed burning, invasive species control and reforestation.

During the state legislature's first committee week in October, Association member Joe Collins, Senior Vice President of Lykes Ranch, was part of a select panel testifying before the Florida Senate on Agriculture on the damage caused by Hurricane Irma.

Federal Tax Reform

Tax reform discussion is gaining momentum in Washington, D.C. Various "frameworks" have been suggested, but at this point pen has yet to be put to paper in the official congressional process.



The Association is working with our federal partners in strong support of the continued inclusion of the Timberland Tax Provisions in the federal tax code:

- Capital gains treatment of timber revenue.
- Deduction for timber growing costs.
- Treatment of timberland as real property for purposes of the real estate investment trust (REIT) rules.
- Deduction and amortization of reforestation costs.

As a whole, the current proposals appear to be short on details. Although the timberland tax provisions have not been specifically targeted, there is concern over language regarding the need to modernize the rules that specific tax regimes and to eliminate special exclusions and deductions.

The Association and our federal counterparts also support the elimination of the "death tax" on inheritances. This provision, we are happy to report, seems to be gaining ground.

ANNUAL MEETING 2017: #FORESTPROUD

With many thanks to our registrants, sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, auction donors and bidders, another successful Annual Meeting is in the history books!

As the #ForestProud theme suggests, we have many reasons to be proud. Our members rank at the top of that list! We appreciate everyone's involvement and support. Your membership matters!

Held August 29-31, 2017, at the Sandestin Grand in Sandestin, FL, this year's gathering featured tremendous networking opportunities and topnotch speakers addressing current topics of interest to the forest industry.

Highlights of the event included the Timber Toppers Golf Classic, the state's largest forestry trade show, a silent auction, two receptions, and a closing dinner with entertainment that was truly magical!

The annual awards breakfast celebrated the best of the best in Florida forestry:

Silviculture Contractor of the Year

*Bielling Site Prep & Reforestation
Providence, FL*



A graduate of the School of Business at Florida State University, Bielling has worked in agriculture for the past 45 years. Today, in addition to working as a silviculture contractor in the forest industry, he grows timber, raises cattle, and produces Tabasco Peppers for the McIlhenny Family.

"Jimmy is an excellent example of the high caliber of people who work in the forest industry," said Alan Shelby, Executive Vice President of the Florida Forestry Association. "Site preparation and reforestation are vital to sustainability, as are people like Jimmy who are willing to put in the long, hard hours it takes to get the job done right."

Jimmy is a member of the Providence Village Baptist Church and is active in his local community. He is also a Realtor and Broker of Land and Homes, a Real Estate Brokerage in Providence.

A strong advocate for the forest industry, Jimmy serves as chair of the Association's political action committee (TREPAC), is active in the Association's Regional Political Action Group for his area and participates each year in Forestry Day at the Capital in Tallahassee and in federal events as well.

Jimmy and his wife, Kathy, live on the family farm in Providence. Their son Jesse R. Bielling, IV, his wife Lynsi Bielling and their son, Jesse R. "Jax" Bielling, V, also live in Union County, a few minutes from the farm in Providence. Jimmy also has one daughter, Betty Rees Bielling, who lives in Jacksonville, FL.

Florida's Outstanding Logger of the Year D&S Griffis Timber, Inc. Live Oak, FL.



David Griffis started his own business in 1996 as a two-man crew; his son Sam joined him in 2004. As the business continued to grow, David and Sam decided to become "D&S Griffis Timber, Inc." in 2011.

The business operation has grown with every aspect of logging, including new equipment and semi-trucks, noted Griffis. Production is at an all-time high.

"The Griffis family should be very proud of what they have accomplished," said Shelby. "Logging has always been a family tradition for them, and they have excelled."

Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year John and Alison Nash Osceola Pines/Levy County, FL



The Nashes purchased Osceola Pines, a partially clear cut timber farm in Levy County, in 2002. Having very little knowledge and back ground in the timber industry and wildlife management, the Nashes leaned on the professional advice of the Florida Forestry Association members, Florida Forest Service, National Wild Turkey Federation and University of Florida/IFAS. Together, a comprehensive timber and wildlife management plan has been implemented and is continuously revised and updated for the changing environment.

"We intend on continuing to be good stewards of their land," said Allison Nash. "Relying on timber

income (from the property), we plan on enjoying future family holidays, hunting trips and creating a legacy to pass down to future generations."

"The forest industry was built by private landowners and retains strong roots in family ownership to this day," said Shelby. "The Nashes and Osceola Pines are an excellent example of how traditional family values continue to thrive in forestry."

Audubon Sustainable Forester of the Year Russ Weber, ACF, CF, RF Gainesville, FL



Russ Weber became part of F&W Forestry Services, Inc., after graduation from North Carolina State University in 1977 with a BS in Forestry. He has served in various positions with F&W from a staff and district forester in Albany, GA, to his current position since 1988 as the regional manager in Gainesville, FL. He also serves on F&W's Board of Directors.

Russ holds a Florida Broker real estate license and is a State Certified General Real Estate Appraiser. He has certifications and registrations from the Society of American Foresters as a Certified Forester and is a Georgia Registered Forester. Membership and participation in various organizations include; the Association of Consulting Foresters, Society of American Foresters, Florida Forestry Association and the Alachua County Land Conservation Board.

"I am truly honored to be recognized by Audubon Florida and I look forward to continuing to incorporate management practices that protect and conserve wildlife and the environment," Weber said.

Russ and his wife Penny live in Gainesville. They enjoy working on their longleaf pine Tree Farm, college sports and serving their local church.

LEGISLATORS OF THE YEAR

One of the challenges that the forest industry faces in Florida is that 80% of our working forests can be found north of Ocala but 80% of our state legislators can be found south of Ocala. We call that the 80/20 Rule.

"The 80/20 Rule makes it imperative that the forestry story reaches legislators outside of our geographical base," said Shelby. "It also makes it imperative that the legislators in the forested areas of the state are willing to listen and to take the lead on issues affecting their

forestry constituents. This year's winners have done just that."

Senator Travis Hutson



Prior to representing District 7 in the Florida Senate, Hutson served as the State Representative for Florida House District 24.

While serving in the Florida House, Hutson improved the water quality in Florida, as he successfully carried Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam's water policy reform in the Florida House.

Hutson graduated from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in Economics and Business. He resides in St Augustine with his wife, Tanya, and their daughter, Taylor. Hutson continues his family's legacy working in the forest industry.

Representative Jay Trumbull



Representative Trumbull is a native of Bay County, FL. Outside of his legislative service, he works at Culligan Water, where he is now the fourth generation of his family to work at the family-owned business started over 60 years ago by his great-grandfather, and now run by his father. He is a co-owner of Southern Air Experts, a small business located in his hometown of Panama City, FL.

Representative Trumbull is a graduate of Auburn University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship and Family Business.

Jay is married to his high school sweetheart Brittany Fishel Trumbull. They have been married for four years and have one child. When he isn't working, Trumbull is an avid outdoorsman.

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE LONG RANGE FORECAST



This past summer has been one of the wettest for north Florida, especially in the western Panhandle. The reporting station in Pensacola broke two monthly records—one for June, and another for August, with 20.73" and 20.44" respectively. The old records for those two months were 18.23" (2012) and 12.04" (2016). Most reporting stations are either near or above normal. Central Florida was still below normal rainfall totals as of the end of August; however, there is a good possibility that the region will be above

normal once the rainfall totals from Hurricane Irma are added in at the end of September. It's also worth noting that on June 30, Florida was drought free for the first time since July 2016.

Recently, very warm sea surface temperatures (SSTs) have also contributed to a very active peak of the hurricane season. Forecasters had initially given Florida a 60% chance to see a direct hit from a hurricane; that forecast held true with Irma in early September, which made two landfalls in the state. The first was in the Keys as a Category 4; the second occurred near Marco Island as a Category 3. This may only be the beginning of a very active October in the tropics, as NOAA updated their tropical outlook in August: the chance for an above-normal hurricane season was raised from 45% to 60%, with 14 – 19 named storms, 5 – 9 hurricanes, and 2 – 5 major hurricanes (Category 3 or greater). To put those numbers into perspective, as of September 19, there have been 13 named storms, 7 hurricanes, and 4 major hurricanes.

LONG RANGE WEATHER OUTLOOK:

Climate Prediction Center (CPC) forecasters are giving La Niña a 55 to 60% chance to develop. As a reminder, La Niña is a cooling of an area of the Pacific Ocean off the coast of South America, which usually has some profound effects on our weather. For Florida, La Niña usually means a drier and warmer winter. For fall, however, conditions are expected to be close to normal. Temperatures in north and central Florida have around a 30% chance of seeing above average temperatures, and south Florida has a slightly higher chance at 40%. As for precipitation, Florida has an equal chance of seeing below average, normal, or above average rainfall for the period.

Something else that should also be watched closely is the tropics. Historically, September and October are very active months for tropical cyclogenesis in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Strong, positive Tropical Cyclone Heat Potential (TCHP) anomalies were observed in the Gulf of Mexico in August and September, indicating very warm waters and very favorable conditions for any sort of tropical cyclone development. We saw that when the remnants of Harvey quickly redeveloped in the Gulf at the end of August, intensifying from a remnant low to a Category 4 hurricane in only 57 hours, reaching that benchmark just before making landfall in Texas. Several models also indicate that the waters in the Gulf will remain very warm at least through the middle of October.

SUMMARY AND FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOK:

Due to a very wet rainy season, wildfire potential throughout much of Florida will be close to normal for the time period. North Florida's wildfire potential will be below normal due to the large rain surplus. The forecasted wildfire potential isn't really saying much because historically, the fall season isn't a very active time for Florida wildfires.

Fall temperatures have a good chance to be above average, with precipitation having an equal chance for being below, at, or above normal. The warm forecast further emphasizes the chance for a warm winter courtesy of the high chance for La Niña. There is also a good chance that the tropics in October will be just as active as it was in September. Hurricane season should begin to wind down starting in the middle of October, and the official end of hurricane season is November 30.

LOG A LOAD FOR KIDS MAKES A MILLION!



On October 19, 2017, the 23rd Annual Tommy Usher Log A Load For Kids Golf Classic celebrated the \$1 million mark for donations made to the UF Health Shands Children's Hospital in Gainesville, FL!

Since joining the Log A Load campaign efforts in 1995, Florida's forestry community and friends have raised over \$2 million for hospitals associated with the Children's Miracle Network in Florida.

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