

OPTION 1

Florida Forests Week

In recognition of the importance of Florida's forests, the week of October 22-28, 2023, is being celebrated across Florida as "Florida Forests Week."

The week recognizes the importance of Florida's forests and forest-related industries to our state's environment and economy.

According to a study by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), forestry and forest products are ranked as the state's top agricultural commodity and the leading agricultural export.

The UF/IFAS study reports that forestry has a \$25 billion impact on the state's economy. Statewide, the forest industry helps to provide jobs for more than 124,000 people.

Florida's forests also play a critical role in the state's environment.

"Florida's forests have a tremendous positive environmental impact," said Florida Forestry Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. "They provide a natural filtration system which can and should be an integral part of the solution to our state's looming water quality and quantity issues."

Shelby noted that in a state experiencing constant development, forests also offer much-needed green spaces for recreation and habitat to an amazing diversity of wildlife.

At last count, more than 5,000 items contained forest products. The assortment of "Goods from the Woods" is very diverse and continues to grow. For example, the materials working forests provide are used to build homes, print newspapers, landscape yards and manufacture furniture. Forests products are also found in the screens on cell phones, televisions and computers; in shampoos and other cosmetics; and in medicines, sports equipment, food and much more.

For more information about Florida Forests Week and our state's forests, visit FLForestry.org.

###

OPTION 2

FLORIDA CELEBRATES ITS FORESTS

Florida Forests Week is being celebrated across the state October 22-28, 2023!

People in this area understand the significance of Florida's forests. We are blessed to live in the heart of our state's woodlands. Many of our families, like my own, have a rich history and heritage in the forest industry. Many more, again like my own, are proud to be counted in the 124,000 Floridians who work in the industry today. But I think sometimes even we don't always fully appreciate the extent of the impact of working forests on our economy, our environment and our everyday life.

An economic study by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) show that forestry and forest products are a top agricultural commodity and leading agricultural export. Florida forests provide a \$25 billion boost to the state's economy.

From water to wildlife and carbon sequestration to conservation, forests offer natural solutions to the issues that Florida faces. In a state experiencing constant development, they also offer much-needed green spaces that are not only beautiful but also offer habitat to an amazing diversity of wildlife.

At last count, more than 5,000 items contained forest products. The assortment of "Goods from the Woods" is very diverse and continues to grow. For example, the materials working forests provide are used to build our homes, print our newspapers, landscape our yards and manufacture our furniture. Forests products are also found in the screens on our cell phones, televisions and computers; in our shampoos and other cosmetics; and in medicines, sports equipment, food and much more!

Too many emails these days feature signatures advocating against printing in order to save trees. Florida Forests Week is the perfect time to correct the wrong thinking behind that movement. The fact is that the use of paper strengthens the market for wood, which in turn encourages the planting of trees. If you would like to keep Florida forested, please print those emails!

For more information about working forests and Florida Forests Week, please visit FLForestry.org.

###

OPTION 3

Celebrate Florida Forests Week with Your Favorite “Goods from the Woods”

Did you know that more than 5000 items that are part of our daily lives are made using resources from working forests?

Some are obvious, such as paper, boxes, furniture and lumber. Others are mind-blowing, such as cancer treatments.

Some help keep you looking good: hairspray, lipstick and other cosmetics. Others help keep you feeling good: aspirin, cough syrup, and other medicines.

Some help keep you clean: shampoo, toothpaste and soap. Others help clean things around you: laundry detergent, pine cleaners and dish washing liquid.

Some help you work: ink, computer casings and cell phone screens. Others help you play: sports equipment, musical instruments and fireworks.

Some you eat: ice cream, spices, hot chocolate, Twinkies®, salad dressings and fat-free foods. Others you wear: rayon, fragrances and eyeglass frames.

Some help get you down the road: tires, steering wheels and asphalt. Others help you around the house: carpet, paint and mulch.

Florida is celebrating Florida Forests Week October 22-28, 2023. Be sure to join in the fun by using all your favorite “Goods from the Woods!”

For more information about Florida Forests Week and our state’s forests, visit FLForestry.org.