SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) Health Section has been carefully monitoring early Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) activity in North Florida and encourages landowners to be aware as they are widely regarded as one of the most destructive and economically devastating forest pests in the southeastern United States.

FFS foresters and pilots have logged over 8,600 linear miles conducting aerial survey flights to detect new infestations. When a SPB spot is confirmed, the affected landowners are contacted and advised on how to respond. Since March, a total of 78 spots have been detected in 8 counties (Alachua, Calhoun, Columbia, Hamilton, Hernando, Marion, Nassau and Suwannee). Approximately 78 acres of pine mortality has occurred on both private and public forest lands. These small infestations average less than an acre right now, but they can expand rapidly this time of year.

Signs or symptoms of SPB infestations include areas of pine trees with wilting needles and clumps of resin (pitch tubes) in the bark crevices where the beetles have tunneled in. Other bark beetle species may cause similar symptoms, but a forest health specialist or trained forester can distinguish between infestations of “stress-responding” beetles and the more aggressive Southern Pine Beetles.

If a landowner thinks they may have a SPB infestation on their property, they can learn more about prevention or contact their local Florida Forest Service County Forester to schedule a site visit by going to www.FreshFromFlorida.com/SouthernPineBeetle/Prevention.

HURRICANE-RELATED TAX REBATES

HB 7087, passed in the 2018 state legislative session, provides for a refund of sales tax paid on fencing materials and building materials used to repair nonresidential farm buildings damaged by Hurricane Irma.

Fencing and farm building repair tax refunds are for materials purchased between September 10, 2017, and May 31, 2018, for repairs from damage resulting from Hurricane Irma.

The Fuel Tax refund applies to fuels purchased and used in Florida between September 10, 2017, and June 30, 2018, for the transport of agricultural products, including wood, during the disaster declaration. (Please note that it does not have to be hurricane-damaged wood.)

The necessary forms can be found on the Association’s website on the Important Links page under the Resources tab (www.FloridaForest.org/Resources/Important-Links).

TPO MILL SURVEY UNDERWAY

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) has announced that the Timber Products Output (TPO) Survey is underway.

More than 1,600 forest product mills will be surveyed across the South, including 74 mills in Florida. All mill surveys should be completed by mid-summer 2018. Every mill is encouraged to schedule their TPO meeting as soon as their 2017 production data has been summarized.

Please help with this effort by sharing the word of the survey’s importance and by welcoming FFS foresters when they contact the mill you own or operate to schedule a visit to collect this important information.

CONIFEX TIMBER TO PURCHASE MILLS IN FLORIDA AND ARKANSAS

Conifex Timber Inc. has reached an agreement with BW SLC Holdings, LLC, an affiliate of Blue Wolf Capital Partners LLC and the minority shareholders of Caddo River Forest Products, LLC to purchase all of the outstanding membership interests of Suwannee Lumber Holding Company, LLC, Suwannee Timber Management, LLC and Caddo River Forest Products, LLC (collectively, the “BW Group”).

The BW Group owns the Suwannee sawmill in Cross City, Florida, and the Caddo River sawmill in Glenwood, Arkansas.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTER AWARD NOMINATIONS

Audubon Florida is seeking nominations for its Sustainable Forester Award, which will be presented at the Florida Forestry Association’s Annual Meeting.

Criteria: Florida-based forester, forestry family or forestry business, with demonstrated improvements in bird and wildlife habitat and water resources through forest management practices.

Easy Nomination: Letter with photographs and supportive documentation of sites managed and improved results. Please include contact information for the nominee and the nominator. Supportive letters appreciated but not necessary. Please limit to five pages or less.

Deadline: July 31, 2018

Send nominations to Adrienne Ruhl via email (aruhl@audubon.org) or postal mail (Audubon Florida/ 308 N Monroe Street/Tallahassee, FL 32301).

For more information, please contact Audubon Florida at 850.222.2473.
**FLORIDA FORESTRY TEACHERS' TOUR**

The 2018 Florida Forestry Teachers’ Tour (FFTT) is an annual event that gives the forest industry the opportunity to tell forestry’s story to educators from around the state. Teachers take back the information and insights they learn in this four-day hands-on experience and incorporate them into their curricula during the school year. The tour is based out of Fernandina Beach, FL.

Sponsors are vital to the success of this program! Each $500 sponsorship allows one teacher to participate at no cost to him/herself beyond travel to and from Fernandina Beach.

Thank you to our 2018 sponsors for making this important event possible:

- Association of Consulting Foresters-Florida Chapter
- Callahan Timber Company
- Coastal Plywood Company
- Cochran Forest Products
- Dave Norton & Diann Douglas
- Florida Tree Service
- Florida Tree Farm Program
- Forest Investment Associates
- Four Rivers Land & Timber Company LLC
- Friends of Florida State Forests, Inc.
- Georgia-Pacific WFS LLC
- Jimmy Bielling
- Jon & Carol Gould
- Michael and Jacqueline Dooner
- Mizell Development, Inc.
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- Southeastern Society of American Foresters
- Southern Forestry Consultants, Inc.
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc.
- T. W. Byrd's Sons, Inc.
- Tom Gilpin
- University of Florida, School of Forest Resources & Conservation
- WestRock Fernandina Region
- Westrock Panama City Region
- Weyerhaeuser

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PROPOSES FOREST REPLANTING COST-SHARE**

Earlier this year, the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) approached the Association to discuss possible reforestation efforts in area springsheds. A proposed cost-share program was the result of those discussions.

At their April board meeting and public hearing, the SRWMD Governing Board approved the proposed project. Pending funding by the Department of Environmental Protection, the District will offer to cost-share with landowners up to $150 per acre (up to 50% of actual planting and site prep costs reimbursement).

Highest priorities will be in converting lands in primary focus areas identified in the springsheds of Ichetucknee, Madison Blue and Troy Springs that reduce the use of groundwater for irrigation and reduce nutrient loading significantly, and/or planting and managing pine stands for increased recharge in priority springs areas.

"Forestry plays a key role in protecting Florida’s springs," said Mike Branch, the Association’s Director of Operations and Regulatory Affairs after attending the meeting. "We will continue to work to increase recognition of the forest’s ability to impact springs in very positive ways."

**ALACHUA COUNTY 4-H FORESTRY TEAM HEADS TO NATIONALS**

The Alachua County 4-H Forestry Team recently won their state competition and are preparing to compete in the Nationals in July.

At Nationals, the team will be identifying tree species, insects and diseases, measuring trees, reading maps, using compasses, evaluating forests and participating in a quiz bowl competition. During the state competition, they participated in similar contest components. Their individual scores placed them 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the competition.

“Forestry has been an amazing learning experience for me," said team member Anna Hooks. “Learning how different elements of a forest interact has inspired me towards a career in ecology...”

The team will be making presentations to community organizations, holding bake sales and selling hot dogs at local businesses and soliciting friends, family and others to raise money for the national competition. If you would like to contribute, checks should be made out to Alachua County 4-H and mailed to 2800 NE 39th Ave/Gainesville, FL 32609.

*Congratulations to the team on a job well done! Good luck at Nationals!*

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**FLORIDA TREE FARM 2019 AUDIT**

The Florida Tree Farm Program is preparing for a 2019 audit to verify that certified Tree Farms are compliant with the 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability.

Beginning in January 2019, the audit team will visit a relatively small sample of Tree Farms to review the landowners’ management plans and conduct a brief interview.

The Florida Tree Farm Program wants to make sure this audit goes well so it is extremely important for ALL certified Tree Farms in the state to have a current written management plan that has been updated in the last five years.

Please contact your Florida Forest Service County Forester, consultant, or your Tree Farm District Representative if you need an update to your management plan, or if you have not been inspected since 2014.

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

The success of any association depends upon an active and engaged membership. Now’s your chance to take your involvement to the next level by joining one of our committees: Communications, Environmental, Government Relations and Steering.

Committees generally meet twice each year. In most cases, members have the option of participating via conference call.

To learn more about the Association's committees and their missions, please visit our website at [http://floridaforest.org/programs/ffa-committees/](http://floridaforest.org/programs/ffa-committees/).
Join your friends and business associates at the beautiful Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort for three days of networking, learning and celebrating another year in the amazing forest industry! The majestic Atlantic Ocean pairs with Florida's beautiful forests to serve as the backdrop for this exciting event.

The state's largest forestry trade show is held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting, featuring exhibits by the industry’s cutting edge equipment and service providers. Don't be left behind – schedule time to meet with all the representatives to find out the latest and greatest developments for forestry professionals in today's marketplace!

You will also want to make sure to check out this year's Silent Auction! We are continually expanding our base of donors of offerings for this event. You will be the envy of your friends and associates when you walk away with the top bid on any item in our slate of auction offerings!

And of course you will not want to miss our line-up of speakers! We are excited to have some of the best and the brightest in the industry join us to share their expertise and experience.

The schedule outlines all the events as well as our session topics and speakers. A registration form is available under the Annual Meeting tab on our website (www.FloridaForest.org) or by calling the Association office (850.222.5646). Register now for the best rates!

### HOTEL INFORMATION

Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort
39 Beach Lagoon Road
Amelia Island, FL 32034

Reservations: 1.888.261.6161

Group Name: Florida Forestry Association

Reservations may also be made online. Please visit the Annual Meeting tab on our website (www.FloridaForest.org).

Rate: $139 + $7 resort fee

### TIMBER TOPPERS GOLF CLASSIC

The 2018 Timber Toppers Golf Classic will be played on the fabulous Oaks Marsh course, a classic Pete Dye design! Join your associates for a day of play and networking that you will not soon forget.

Tee-time is 8 AM on Wednesday, August 29, 2018. Golf is open to all Association members and guests. Meeting registration is not required to play in the Classic; however, for logistical reasons, all golfers must register to play in the tournament. So register today to reserve your space on the course!

### SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, August 28, 2018**
- 10:00 AM–6:00 PM  Trade Show Set-Up/Silent Auction Open
- 1:00 PM–6:00 PM  Registration Desk Open
- 1:00 PM–3:00 PM  Forestry Council Meeting
- 5:30 PM–7:00 PM  Registrant Reception/Exhibitor Meet & Greet

**Wednesday, August 29, 2018**
- 6:30 AM–6:00 PM  Registration Desk Open
- 6:30 AM–8:00 AM  Early Bird Coffee
- 6:30 AM–10:00 AM  Trade Show Set-Up
- 6:45 AM–7:45 AM  Golf Registration & Tee-Time Coffee
- 8:00 AM–1:00 PM  Golf Tournament
- 10:00 AM–7:00 PM  Trade Show & Silent Auction Open
- 10:00 AM–12:00 PM  Breakout Discussions:
  - Ecosystem Services – Damian Adams, UF SFRC
  - Emerging Pests and Diseases:
    - How to be Proactive Rather Than Reactive
    - Yuri Hulcr, UF SFRC
- 12:00 PM–2:00 PM  Lunch on your own
- 12:00 PM–2:00 PM  UF SFRC Alumni Lunch (tentative)
- 4:00 PM–5:00 PM  Board Meeting
- 5:30 PM–7:00 PM  Welcome Reception/Exhibitor Meet & Greet
- 7:00 PM–Until  Evening On Your Own

**Thursday, August 30, 2018**
- 6:45 AM–12:00 PM  Registration Desk Open
- 6:45 AM–8:00 AM  Early Bird Coffee
- 8:00 AM–10:00 AM  Awards Breakfast
- 10:00 AM–4:00 PM  Trade Show & Silent Auction Open
- 10:30 AM–11:30 AM  General Session:
  - International Demand for Solid Wood Products – Thomas Mende, Klausner Trading USA
- 11:30 AM–1:30 PM  Lunch on your own
- 12:00 PM–1:15 PM  “Master Logger Luncheon: New Equipment Technology”
  - Berry Johnson and Jessica Schetler, John Deere
- 1:30 PM–2:30 PM  General Session: Biomass/Pellets/Global Markets
  - Thomas Metz, Eniviva
- 2:30 PM–4:00 PM  Trade Show Social & Silent Auction Final Bidding
- 5:00 PM–6:00 PM  President’s Reception
- 6:00 PM–8:00 PM  President’s Dinner featuring Scott Burrows
- 8:00 PM–9:00 PM  Auction Item Pickup & Trade Show Teardown

### SPONSORS

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- A. W. Powers Forestry, Inc.

**FRIEND OF FORESTRY**
- Alpine Tree Farms, Inc.

**SOUTHERN FORESTRY CONSULTANTS**
- West Fraser, Inc.

**SOUTHERN FORESTRY REALTY**
- SuperTree, Inc.

**As of 6/19/18**