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CONTENTS

Executive Outlook

Award-Winning Forestry: Celebrating the Best of the Best

Passing the Gavel: Florida Forestry Association President Lynetta Usher Griner

Tree Farmer of the Year: Benjamin and Judi Wyche

National Outstanding Logger: T.W. Byrd’s Sons, Inc.

Florida’s Outstanding Logger: Pickett Logging, Inc.

Sustainability Award: Bill Cleckley

Legislators of the Year: Representative Jimmy Patronis and Senator Greg Evers

Distinguished Service Award: Harold Mikell

Salute to Service
Florida Forest Service Hosts Wounded Veterans on State Forests

Teaching the Teacher
The Florida Forestry Teachers’ Tour

Liability Insurance Protects From Lawsuits Landowners and Hunters Need to Consider Their Legal Liability

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Making a Difference

Executive Outlook
By Alan Shelby
FFA Executive Vice President

The Florida Forestry Association was formed in 1923 by a group of concerned individuals who wanted to make a difference in their industry and their world. While many things have changed in the past 90 years, one thing remains the same: FFA members are still committed to making a difference. Whether it is through the Association’s advocacy efforts and other programs or as individuals, FFA members continue to change the landscape of the world in which we live.

In the pages of this edition, you will see shining examples of this. Distinguished Service Award recipient Harold Mikell has spent not one, but two careers striving to improve the forestry industry and to help the people he served. Tree Farmers of the Year Benjamin and Judi Wyche illustrate the value of hard work and community responsibility; their Rollercoaster Hill is a testament to their commitment to protecting Florida’s forest legacy. Pickett Logging, Inc., our Logger of the Year award winner, was honored for its professional activism as well as its reputation for excellent job performance. T.W. Byrd’s Sons, a former Logger of the Year award winner, went on to national recognition for their accomplishments.

As an association, FFA is part of the team working to rebuild the Austin Cary Memorial Forest Learning Center. This industry landmark has been a vital part of forestry’s outreach efforts for decades. While losing it was a blow to the forestry community, we are looking forward to the opportunities presented by its new and improved version.

The Florida Forests Teachers’ Tour is another notable example of forestry’s outreach programs. This tour gives teachers from across Florida a chance to experience all aspects of the forestry industry, from planting to production. By developing and engaging supporters in the educational community, we are also benefiting the children they teach. Never doubt that knowledge is power.

The difference that FFA members make is not limited to our industry. By partnering with the Florida Forest Service through Operation Outdoor Freedom, private landowners open new doors to our country’s wounded military veterans, providing opportunities for recreation and rehabilitation that are not available through any other state program.

Many of our members are also involved with the Log A Load for Kids program, which raises funds for treatment and research at Children’s Miracle Network hospitals. Since 1995, more than $1.7 million has been collected through their endeavors, giving help and hope to children and their families across Florida.

Other FFA members travel overseas to help with international missions, volunteer for local programs aiding those in need, or work in an amazing variety of other charities. The spectrum of causes our members are involved with is as diverse as our membership itself. However, the driving force behind each of them is the same: a desire to make a difference.

I am honored to serve such an outstanding group of committed individuals. Thank you for the difference that you make.
Passing the Gavel
Florida Forestry Association President
Lynetta Usher Griner

Lynetta Usher Griner, a generational logger and landowner from Chiefland, Florida, was elected president of the Florida Forestry Association (FFA) at its 2012 annual meeting. Griner is the first woman to serve as president in the association’s 90-year history.

“The members that make up our association are the movers and shakers in the future of Florida’s forests,” said Griner. “From clean water to wildlife to thousands of products we use every day, our forests touch the lives of our society in amazing ways. No other renewable natural resource has a greater impact on our lives. No other association fights for our opportunities to grow and use trees like FFA. I am honored to be a part of this organization and humbled to serve as president.”

Griner and her husband, Ken, took over the family business, Usher Land & Timber, Inc., in 1989. Since then, they have received numerous recognitions, including the state and national Logger of the Year and Audubon’s Sustainable Forest Award.

Alan Shelby, FFA Executive Vice President, commended the association’s choice: “Lynetta’s experience and vision will be invaluable as we move forward. She has always been a strong force in our advocacy efforts and places a priority on that. Under her leadership, the members of FFA can feel secure that their association is well-positioned to grow even stronger.”
Tree Farmer of the Year: Benjamin and Judi Wyche

Tree farming has been in the Benjamin G. Wyche family for generations. A small business owner in Madison County, Florida, Wyche and his wife Judi have owned and managed Rollercoaster Hill, a 330-acre certified Tree Farm, since inheriting it from his father more than 10 years ago.

While their primary objective is the production of high quality longleaf timber and pine straw, the Wyches’ management plan also addresses wildlife, soil and water conservation, recreation and aesthetics.

“It’s obvious that Ben and Judi share a commitment to protect the ecological value of their land while producing forest products that Florida needs,” said FFA president Lynetta Usher Griner. “A short visit to the property readily exhibits what love of the land, hard work and dedication can accomplish.”

An abundance of whitetail deer, turkey, quail, and other wildlife can be found at Rollercoaster Hill. Hardwood hammocks scattered around the pine stands enhance its diversity. Walking trails wind through the property, giving visitors the opportunity to enjoy all the property’s natural beauty.

“The Wyches are a wonderful example of a family that finds many benefits from owning and managing a forest,” said Alan Shelby, FFA executive vice president. “We can all learn from their example of being excellent stewards of the land and demonstrating core values like hard work, community responsibility and commitment to protecting Florida’s forest legacy.”

T.W. Byrd’s Sons, Inc.

T.W. Byrd’s Sons, Inc., was named 2012 National Outstanding Logger by the Forest Resources Association (FRA). This award honors exceptional performance in the industry. The winner is selected by a jury of 25 national leaders in forestry and conservation efforts.

T.W. Byrd’s Sons, Inc., was previously named Florida Logger of the Year. Florida Forestry Association (FFA) president Lynetta Usher Griner applauded the Byrds’ latest award. “The Byrds are a unique family and business,” she said. “They are a hardworking forestry and logging family, all of whom are very low-profile when it comes to fanfare and awards. They deserve to be recognized for the great example they set.”

The company was created as a one-man operation in the 1930s by T.W. Byrd. Today it provides harvesting for both institutional and private landowners; delivers to diverse markets; offers site prep and reforestation services to landowners; and includes several sideline enterprises as well. The group also owns and manages 3500 acres of land, with 2700 acres used for forestry purposes.

“The Byrds are well-respected in the industry for their high standards and innovative approaches to business,” said Alan Shelby, FFA executive vice president. “Their company has a long and distinguished history of doing the right things the right way. They show what can be accomplished when a company sets high standards and then exceeds them.”

Florida Forests  7  Spring/Summer 2013
Florida’s Outstanding Logger: Pickett Logging, Inc.

Some say that Harry Pickett, founder of Pickett Logging, Inc., was destined to become a logger: logging is in his genes.

Pickett’s great-grandfather logged his own timber with ox and carts, pulling the timber to the St. Mary’s River to be transported by barge to the mills. His grandfather followed suit, as did his three uncles. Growing up, Pickett spent his summers learning the art of logging from them.

After working at an uncle’s logging company for almost 20 years, Pickett decided to venture out on his own. In 1997, Pickett Logging, Inc. was born. Today, the company purchases their own timber and hauls to numerous mills in Florida and Georgia.

“We are proud to recognize the Picketts for their outstanding achievements and job performance,” said FFA Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. “Their involvement in promoting the logging profession in their community and their strong sense of family speak well of our industry.”

Sustainability Award: Bill Cleckley

William O. “Bill” Cleckley, the Northwest Florida Water Management District’s Director of Land Management and Acquisition, was recognized as the recipient of Audubon Florida’s Sustainable Forestry Award.

“Throughout his 26 years at the District, Bill has shown an unwavering commitment to protecting and restoring Florida’s treasured water and land resources,” said NFWFMD Executive Director Jon Steverson when he presented the award at the Florida Forestry Association’s annual meeting. “Thanks to his leadership and dedication, the District has developed one of the most active restoration and recreational programs in the South and natural communities across the Panhandle continue to thrive.”

During his tenure with the District, Cleckley has helped acquire more than 122,000 acres key to the protection and preservation of Florida’s water resources. He also oversees 212,371 acres of District-owned property and more than 12,400 acres of conservation easements. Using his forestry expertise to focus on habitat restoration, he has led efforts to reforest more than 11,000 acres of longleaf pine uplands and restore groundcover on thousands of acres of upland and wetland wiregrass habitats.

“Bill Cleckley has done an excellent job of managing and restoring the District’s public lands, which are a resource for people and wildlife alike,” said Eric Draper, Audubon Florida Executive Director. “Anyone who has used the District’s lands for recreation knows that they provide a gateway to a wonderful assemblage of springs, forests and rivers. Audubon is proud to be associated with the Florida Forestry Association in presenting this award.”
Legislator of the Year: Representative Jimmy Patronis

Rep. Jimmy Patronis, R-Panama City, is no stranger to the issues facing the Florida forest industry. Patronis has always been an aggressive supporter of private property rights and less government. Recently, he passed a sweeping measure streamlining the regulatory process and reforming the environmental permitting process.

A lifelong resident of Bay County, Patronis works as a partner in the family business alongside his father, uncle and brothers at Captain Anderson’s Restaurant & Market. The Patronis name represents a legacy of hard work, family loyalty, and commitment to their community.

First elected to the House in 2006, Patronis quickly established himself as a leader and fiscal conservative. With his common sense business approach, this year he was named Chair of the House Economic Affairs Committee.

Patronis is a family man, a small business owner, and a true friend of forestry. The Florida Forestry Association is grateful for his service and commitment to the forest industry and was proud to honor him as its 2012 Legislator of the Year.

Senator Greg Evers

Raised in Santa Rosa County, Sen. Greg Evers is a farmer and small businessman who brings that experience and common sense approach to the Legislature. Evers was first elected to the House in 2001, and subsequently elected to the Senate in 2010.

From his first day on the job, Evers quickly established himself as a determined advocate for agriculture. He successfully fought to pass legislation to increase truck weights; he is a vocal defender of private property rights. No matter the issue, if it stands to benefit forestry or agriculture in Florida, Evers is always an aggressive supporter willing to lead the charge.

Evers takes his commitment to his constituents seriously. The Florida Forestry Association is grateful for his unwavering commitment to the forest industry and was pleased to honor him as its 2012 Legislator of the Year.

Contact your local Florida Forest Service office, natural resource professional, or visit www.yourforestmanaged.com

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner
HAROLD MIKELL’S Distinguished Service
Time spent with Distinguished Service Award-winner Harold Mikell is a lesson in both history and statesmanship. Now 86, Mikell has retired from two successful careers; first in forestry, then in politics. The accomplishments he garnered in either would make any man proud. Combined, they are a testament to a life well-lived in service to others.

Mikell’s interest in forestry took root his senior year in high school when he planted trees on the family property in Trenton, Florida, as part of a project for the Future Farmers of America. Sixty-nine years later, some of those trees have stood the tests of time and progress. While most were taken down when the property was developed, six remain standing outside the Farm Credit of North Florida offices in Trenton. (Pictured below: Mikell beside one of “his” trees with David Welch and Claude Crapps)

“I was told they started to cut them down one time,” Mikell recalled, “but the local manager remembered that I was the one who had planted them so they left them there.”

After high school, Mikell served in the Naval Air Corps for two years during World War II. Pointing to the very back of a model of the plane he flew in, he explained, “That’s where I sat. I was the radio operator and tail-gunner. I got that job because it was the least desirable. I was the youngest member of the crew, so I had to take it.”

Upon returning from the war, Mikell enrolled in the University of Florida’s School of Forestry. He also resumed dating the woman who would become his wife, Juanita Beauchamp. “We had been on-again-off-again since she first started chasing me when she was in the fourth grade and I was in the sixth,” he said with a decided twinkle in his eye. “After I returned from service, we became serious. I graduated, got married, and started working for the Florida Forest Service (FFS) all within a month.” (Pictured top right)

Mikell began his career with FFS as an Apprentice Forester. He steadily moved up through the ranks, retiring as the division’s director 41 years later. Over the span of those four decades, Mikell was recognized for a variety of accomplishments, but perhaps his greatest single area of achievement lay in fire prevention. He developed fire protection organizations for rural areas, a pattern replicated by other forestry organizations across the country. In 1990, the year before he retired, he was presented with the National Bronze Smokey Bear Award for his outstanding fire prevention efforts.

Phil Gornicki, FFA’s Director of Regulatory Affairs, worked for Mikell at FFS for 14 years before joining the Association’s staff. “… Harold exemplifies the finest qualities of America’s ‘greatest generation’: loyalty, integrity, and selfless devotion to his work,” he said. “He was and remains one of Florida’s most valued stalwarts of the forestry profession.”

The Florida of Mikell’s early career was vastly different than the Florida of today. He described an undeveloped state with a much smaller population and fewer demands on its resources; a transportation system minus crowded interstate highways; a land, in fact, still operating as free range. In 2013 that might ring of old westerns played on the silver screen, but Mikell recalled it created very real contention between cattlemen and foresters back in the day.
Although the cattle industry originally resisted Gov. Fuller Warren’s efforts to instate fence laws, he noted that it had ultimately turned out to be a very positive turn of events for them, creating an environment that fostered upgraded pasturelands and herds. With the pragmatic wisdom that he is known for, he offered, “Sometimes the things you think are bad turn out to be the best thing that could have happened for you. You just don’t know it when it’s happening.”

Being the true diplomat that he is, Mikell was quick to note that any problems created by the free range issue are now literally history. Today, he said, the two industries work very well together and often help each other; a divisive issue led to a solid partnership.

Not only has the state transformed, Florida’s governmental structure has changed considerably in Mikell’s time as well. As part of the massive Government Reorganization Act of 1969, FFS was moved to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS); Doyle Conner was serving as Commissioner.

“We were fortunate to work under Commissioner Conner,” Mikell said. “He had an understanding of forestry that allowed us to do the things that we needed to do.” And do them they did. From planting billions of trees to initiating prescribed burns, in the ensuing years Mikell and his coworkers at DACS transformed the landscape of the state. (Pictured at left)

After retiring from DACS, he and wife Juanita built a cracker-style home on land they owned in their native Gilchrist County. The property is a certified Tree Farm and Stewardship Forest. It was this enterprise that Mikell expected to fill his days once his days at the Department were over. (Pictured top right)

With his own tree farm, Mikell remained active in the Society of American Foresters. On their behalf, he met with then-Congressman Pete Peterson. That meeting turned into a six-month appointment as district liaison with the agricultural industry, environmental groups and related federal agencies. When Peterson accepted an ambassadorship to Vietnam, Mikell continued working with his successor, Rep. Alan Boyd. Mikell finally retired from his “temporary” position 17 years later.

When asked about his achievements, Mikell credits the secret of his successes to one key element: the people around him.

“Regardless of what you’re doing, it’s a matter of people. I’ve been fortunate to have been surrounded by good people,” he said, “You have to learn to appreciate the other fellow’s concerns and try the best you can. You have to have the ability to understand that’s how you get things done. So much of success and life is about helping people.”

According to Mike Joyner, Assistant Commissioner at DACS now who has known and worked with Mikell for the past two decades, this philosophy has been the cornerstone of Mikell’s life.

“Public service and leadership have defined Mr. Mikell’s life,” he said. “As a mentor of mine, he made a lasting impact on my early career and continues to set an example for me to follow.”
Michigan’s outreach is not limited to those with whom he has worked. An avid supporter of his beloved University of Florida, he has been instrumental in efforts to rebuild the school’s Austin Cary Memorial Forest Learning Center; the library there will be named in his and Juanita’s honor. His generosity will impact countless people who will pass through its doors.

Although Mikell’s professional achievements have a lasting impact, his most important legacy lies even closer to his heart than forestry, government service or the Gators: his family. He and Juanita are the proud parents of one daughter, Patti, who is married to Will Booth; their girls, Lacey and Annie, are their grandfather’s pride and joy. (Pictured below)

The walls and shelves in his home are lined with an impressive array of photographs of Mikell and his family, happy testaments to a life well lived.

Mingled with those photographs, the awards on his walls reflect the gratitude of those he has so graciously served over his career. He remains humble despite the many awards. “If you’ve lived as long as I have,” he explained with a smile, “a lot of good things happen to you.”

That’s especially true when you use the time as Mikell has.

Joyner agreed that Mikell has made a lasting difference: “Florida agriculture and our state have benefited greatly from his lifetime of contributions.”

And so has everyone who has the good fortune to know him.

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Many military veterans across Florida are hunting for the first time with the help of a new program aimed at increasing hunting and recreation opportunities for wounded servicemen and women.

Championed by Agriculture Commissioner Adam H. Putnam, Operation Outdoor Freedom (OOF) is a program of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Florida Forest Service that designates specific areas on state forests for hunting and recreation by wounded veterans.

Formalized by the state legislature in 2011, Operation Outdoor Freedom allows the Florida Forest Service to designate specific areas on state forests to be recreated exclusively by wounded veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Currently, over 95 percent of Florida’s state forest system is open to public hunting. OOF hunts are planned on the remaining five percent that is too small to be put in Wildlife Management Areas. Public hunting areas are not closed or affected for OOF hunts.

Under the OOF program, hunters participate in turkey, deer, hog, and quail hunts on state forests throughout Florida during the appropriate seasons. Also, OOF hunts are equipped to accommodate any range of service-related injuries to ensure a quality hunt experience.
Operation Outdoor Freedom began in spring 2010 with a turkey hunt on Lake Wales Ridge State Forest in Polk County, Florida. Working in partnership with the Wounded Warrior Project, OOF was able to host a guided hunt for 10 veterans in the first year. OOF has continued its relationship with the Wounded Warrior Project and since that time expanded to hosting 11 guided hunts on state forests in Santa Rosa, Gadsden, Hamilton, Duval, Clay, Putnam, Hernando, and Polk counties. Unguided hunt opportunities are also being offered for the 2012-2013 hunting seasons on state forests in Bay, Sarasota, and Collier counties.

Another facet of OOF, new in 2012, was the expansion of hunts onto private landowner property. In fact, 17 cattleman landowners and 21 forest landowners agreed to host wounded veterans for a hunt. Commissioner Putnam also hosted several wounded veterans on his private ranch over the 2012 Veterans Day weekend with a 100 percent harvest rate. By the end of the spring 2013 hunting season, OOF will have hosted 52 hunts and served more than 314 wounded veterans.

For many of these men and women, OOF hunts are the first opportunity they’ve had to spend any amount of time outdoors, much less enjoy recreation, since returning home. In fact, hunters often mention that the OOF hunts play a major role in their rehabilitation efforts while overcoming injuries.

The weekend-long hunts are completely funded through private donations and support. Veterans participate at no charge. Hunting areas are engineered to accommodate any veteran, despite his or her range of injuries. Hunters are also outfitted with the necessary hunting gear from camouflage to guns and ammo. Florida Forest Service personnel and local hunting groups provide operational support and serve as guides to the hunters.

Despite the current economic times, businesses and citizens around the state are reaching deep to donate wherever possible. Whether it’s $5 or $5,000, OOF is truly a grassroots effort that allows for Floridians to say “Thank You.” Operation Outdoor Freedom hunts are currently being planned for the 2013 hunting season. To get involved or become a corporate sponsor, visit www.operationoutdoorfreedom.com.
Teaching the Teacher:
The Florida Forestry Teachers’ Tour

Every year, the Florida Forest Service and Florida Forestry Association host 45 of Florida’s best and brightest educators to witness forestry in Northeast Florida on the Florida Forestry Teachers’ Tour. “By educating the teachers of tomorrow’s voting populations, this tour works to ensure forestry is a viable and sustainable industry for generations to come,” said Jim Karels, state forester for the Florida Forest Service.

The tour gives teachers an up-close, transparent look into all facets of the industry. Participants experience forestry from planting to consumer consumption, while learning about the variety of management techniques used to meet the plethora of goals and objectives desired throughout the industry.

Visits to state and federal forestlands showcase the variety of forest management techniques used in Florida. At Camp Blanding, guides explain the challenges of managing the forest around threatened/endangered species while providing practice areas for national security. Guided tours of various industry sites, including

As part of the tour, teachers visit Camp Blanding to see how forests are managed amidst a variety of other purposes, including military exercises and threatened/endangered species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker.

The Weeks family host teachers on their plantation showcasing family tree farming and the importance of passing along family silviculture practices.

At the Rayonier stop teachers use clinometers to measure tree height. At the same stop, teachers witness a Rayonier harvesting operation, GIS technology, SFI, and various forest management practices.
the RockTenn box plant, West Fraser saw mill, and Renessenz chemical laboratory, illustrate the complexity of meeting ever-changing market demands while balancing environmental standards.

Industry stops are contrasted with visits to the Weeks’ family tree farm and DeeDot Ranch, where the focus shifts to passing down family legacies and providing sportsman’s retreats. If available, teachers also visit a harvesting and logging operation on Rayonier property. At the operation, educators are given on-site education about best management practices and cruising concepts.

“Of all the tour stops, the harvesting operation consistently provides the biggest ‘Ah-Ha!’ moment for teachers, even those who are from logging communities,” said Jennifer Hart, tour coordinator and forester for the Florida Forest Service in the Jacksonville District. “At that stop, even the staunchest environmentalists understand the importance and sustainability of logging instead of just a nuisance on the roads.”

Tour stops are paired with Project Learning Tree (PLT) activities, which provide take-home lessons for teachers to implement in their classrooms. Teachers earn continuing education credits and are given first-class food and accommodations while on the tour. The goal of the tour is not only to educate teachers on the importance of the forestry industry, but also give them an experience unlike any other they’ve had as an educator, Hart said.

Of all those involved, the tour would not be possible without the contributions of industry and tour-stop sponsors. Sponsorships through the Florida Forestry Association account for more than 80% of the tour funding, with the Florida Forest Service donating employee time to plan and coordinate the tour.

“The Teachers’ Tour is a tribute to the public/private partnerships that unite our industry,” said Karels. “Not only does the tour provide a view into the technical nature of forestry in Florida, but it also illustrates the joint effort required to guarantee the industry’s longevity.”

The Florida Forestry Teachers’ Tour began in 2002 through a partnership with the Tempered Forest Foundation, Florida Division of Forestry (now Florida Forest Service) and Florida Forestry Association. After the inaugural tour, the tour was left to the state forestry organizations. Since its beginning, the tour has served more than 450 teachers and consequently educated thousands of students on the complexity, sustainability, usefulness, and benefits of Florida’s forestry industry.

To get involved or for tour information, contact Katelyn Landrum, tour coordinator with the Florida Forest Service, at kate lyn.landrum@freshfromflorida.com or call her at 850-922-7030. Also, view tour photos online at Facebook.com/FloridaStateForests.
Liability Insurance Protects From Lawsuits

Landowners and Hunters Need to Consider Their Legal Liability

By Ed Wilson

Formalized hunting clubs and land leases are very common throughout Florida. As private landowners continue to promote hunting leases and our society remains litigious, both landowners and hunters need to consider their legal liability. These concerns are valid as both landowners and hunters assume some degree of legal risk.

Over the past 10 years, liability insurance has become a standard hunting lease requirement. In many cases, private and corporate landowners actually require liability insurance before the hunting lease is finalized.

Although frequently required, this insurance is often misunderstood. Simply stated, liability insurance is designed to provide coverage for hunting clubs and their members for acts for which they could be held legally responsible. The main misconception with hunting liability insurance is the basic intent of liability. This type of insurance coverage is not for accidents that necessarily occur to you — it is designed to protect you from accidents that harmed someone else and you might be held responsible for that injury. (A simple guideline: Can you be sued by someone for that person’s injury?)

Liability is based on common law or negligence. Common law looks at it as: You have a responsibility; you failed in that responsibility; and that caused a person to be injured or harmed. If an injury occurs to you because of your own actions, a liability policy is not the appropriate coverage for this kind of accident. (You can’t sue yourself.)

If you want coverage for your own accidents, you may want to consider an accident policy for your members.

The driving force for hunting liability insurance is landowners who are concerned about their responsibility for liability from a hunting club leasing their property. It has been a standard corporate practice for landowners to require liability insurance for anyone who is working on their property (consultant foresters, logging contractors, or other contractors). Hunting club liability is an extension of this coverage.

The landowner wants to cover their liability from the hunting club leasing the property. This coverage would respond for accidents caused by you to another person (a third party). As a named insured, the hunting club will also have liability protection for accidents caused to a third party.
What is a General Liability Policy?

In most cases, a general liability (GL) policy is constructed based on a standard insurance services office (ISO) form. This form provides the foundation for very broad liability protection for landowners and hunting clubs. Although it is considered a standard form, the wording can be confusing. Unlike a normal property insurance policy that describes what is covered, the general liability policy explains what is not covered. Such policy construction leads to confusion and misunderstanding about the coverage available under this general liability form.

The general liability insuring policy agrees to pay for “those sums that the insured becomes legally obligated to pay as damages because of bodily injury or property damage to which the insurance applies. We will have the right and duty to defend the insured against any suit seeking those damages...” This is a very broad statement that could potentially provide liability protection to an insured for anything for which the entity is legally responsible. Without exclusions, this insuring agreement would be considered so broad that it would be either too expensive or unavailable in the market place. Thus, even though the general liability form is very comprehensive, it is shaped by what exclusions are present on the policy.

For landowners and hunting clubs, it is very important that wording be included for hunting activities and operations, and that additional exclusions are not added that limit the normal hunting club/timberland owner’s activities.

Elements of general liability insurance forms for landowners/hunting clubs should include:
1. Member-to-member liability coverage for cross-member liability claims.
2. Guest liability coverage to provide coverage to the club for acts of their guests.
3. Landowners as additional insured must have coverage for acts of the hunting club.
4. No exclusionary endorsements should be present for activities specific to timberland or hunting operations such as tree stands, ATVs, firearms, logging and lumbering, and/or fire.

Hunting club liability insurance is designed to lessen the risk associated with occurrences caused by the hunting club (or members and guests) and landowners. Clearly, all hunters and landowners should be aware of the risks they take by not having adequate liability insurance.

It’s simply not worth risking all of your personal assets or your family’s security due to unfortunate accidents or acts of your hunting club members/guests.

Ed Wilson, PhD, co-founded Outdoor Underwriters Inc. in 2008. As vice president, he manages all aspects of their forestry-related insurance products. He is also a certified forester.
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Imagine for one horrifying moment that your child has been diagnosed with a serious illness. There is treatment that might save his life; but no matter how you try to work it, you can’t pay for it. What would you do?

Sadly, this scenario is no stretch of the imagination for thousands of families across the country today. Soaring medical costs coupled with a declining economy put far too many of our nation’s children at risk of going without life-saving treatments.

This is not a new problem, however. It was more than a quarter of a century ago that a group of caring individuals joined together to create a program to help those in need, and Log A Load For Kids® was born. Through this nationwide giving campaign, the forestry...
Since 1995, Florida's forestry community has raised more than $1.7 million for the following CMN-affiliated hospitals:
- Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart, Pensacola
- Shands Hospital at the University of Florida, Gainesville
- Wolfson Children's Hospital and the pediatric programs at University Medical Center, Jacksonville
- All Children's Hospital, St. Petersburg
- Miami Children's Hospital, Miami

Originally the money was raised through donations equaling the cost of one load of logs. Today, volunteers host a variety of fund-raising events: golf and fishing tournaments; poker runs and bike rides; skeet shoots; auctions; and memorials, to name some of the most popular. The scope of events is as creative as the people who hold them.

Lynetta Usher Griner, president of the Florida Forestry Association (FFA), commended the dedication of the FFA members who support the program. “They are the backbone and heart of Log A Load for Kids®. It takes a lot of work, time and energy to do what they do. We can give a dollar figure for the amount of money they raise, but there is no way to put a price tag on the help and the hope they provide to the families who benefit.”

> continued from page 21

2012 LOG A LOAD® FOR CHILDREN FUNDRAISING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ride for Miracles</th>
<th>Log A Load Golf Classic</th>
<th>16th Annual Log A Load Bass Tournament and Live Auction</th>
<th>18th Annual Tommy Usher Log A Load Golf Tournament</th>
<th>September 20, 2012</th>
<th>Chiefland Golf and Country Club</th>
<th>Chiefland, FL</th>
<th>$30,003.75</th>
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Travis Glidden (L) and Lee Grandquest beat 161 other teams to win the 16th Log a Load for Kids bass tournament in Stockton, AL. The team’s five-fish limit weighed 16.63 pounds (Press-Register/ Jeff Dute).
**Help Rebuild the Austin Cary Memorial Forest Learning Center**

The Florida Forestry Association is helping rebuild the University of Florida’s 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. Whether you are an alumnus, friend, or just someone who can imagine the importance that this Center brings to our business and heritage, we encourage you to consider making a financial contribution in support of this effort.

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.

For more information, please visit www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Learning_Center.
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