Farm Bill Passes Congress

After a rapid turn of events, leadership in the House of Representatives split the traditional Farm Bill into two bills, first focusing on the farm-only provisions. This new legislation, H.R. 2642, passed the House in a 216-208 vote. Nutrition provisions will be dealt with separately.

This legislation offers several benefits to forest landowners:

- Protection from unnecessary permit requirements and regulations on forest roads;
- Access to new market opportunities for forest products, increasing available revenue to reinvest back into forest stewardship;
- Improved access to more conservation tools to improve wildlife habitat and forest stewardship; and
- Strengthened support for programs to fight invasive forest pests.

This bill moves the process a step forward, providing a path to conference committee with the Senate. It is hoped the result will be final, comprehensive Farm Bill legislation.

Rural and Family Lands Program Applications

Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam encourages agricultural landowners to apply for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program. The program was established to acquire perpetual agricultural conservation easements, ensuring lands will be preserved in agricultural use while providing for the protection of natural resources.

For more information about the program or to download an application, please visit the Florida Forest Service’s website at www.FloridaForestService.com.

The deadline to apply is August 29, 2013.

Development of Wildlife BMPs for Forestry Underway

A subcommittee of the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services’ Silviculture Best Management Practices (BMP) Technical Advisory Committee met in Lake City on Thursday, July 18, to begin development of wildlife BMPs for forestry activities. The subcommittee, which includes FFA staff and members, representatives of key state and federal agencies and a representative from an environmental organization, made significant progress.

A panel of speakers will address this issue at FFA’s annual meeting. Please see inside pages for details.

Economic Report

The University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) has released a new study showing that the state’s agricultural and natural resources industries are strong and growing stronger.

According to the study, the forest industry creates combined value-added economic impacts of more than $6 billion. It also provides almost 78,000 jobs.
FFA 2013 Annual Meeting: “Growing Through Change” September 3-5, 2013, in Ponte Vedra Beach

Please join us for our 2013 annual meeting at the Sawgrass Marriott in beautiful Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

From September 3-5, meeting participants will be able to engage in exceptional educational, recreational and networking opportunities.

Speakers

Our featured speakers include some of the best and brightest associated with our industry today:

Herschel Vineyard is the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). He will address DEP’s priorities, mission and direction, sharing successes and opportunities in environmental protection partnerships.

The Secretary will also discuss the importance of the future of environmental land acquisition and management, and how all of this interacts with the future of Florida’s working forests.

Jim Karel is the Director of the Florida Forest Service. He will share results from the Comprehensive Statewide Forest Inventory Analysis (CSFIA) project mandated by the 2012 Florida Energy Bill. The project used remote sensing techniques and the latest FIA data for its inventory and analytical approaches.

Karel will discuss availability of timber biomass resources statewide and locally, as well as forest sustainability index throughout the state.

Dr. Ann Shortelle is the Executive Director of the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD). She will discuss recent trends in land use as evaluated within the context of water supply and water quality goals. She will also address the need for partnerships to stabilize productive land uses in key springsheds and other sensitive locations, along with mechanisms to encourage these partnerships.

Jon Steverson is the Executive Director of the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD). He will share ideas on the importance of working forests in achieving the NWFWMD missions and goals; land conversion trends within the District; and opportunities to encourage or incentivize reforestation or afforestation.

Hans Tanzler is the Executive Director of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). He will speak about SJRWMD activities of interest to the forestry community, including the District’s land management activities, the year-long lands assessment and other issues.

Jeff Vowell of the Florida Forest Service, Scott Sanders of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Doug Rillstone of Broad & Cassel will provide an update on the development of wildlife best management practices for forestry.

Al Morales is the Chief Financial Officer of American Renewables, the developer of the Gainesville Renewable Energy Center (GREC). The GREC is a 100 megawatt power generation facility fueled by woody biomass, scheduled to open in the fall. When operational, GREC will use approximately one million green tons of clean wood waste per year.

Topic to be covered will include an overview of the facility and its operations; fuel requirements and types; and fuel sustainability standards.

Recreation

Timber Toppers Golf Classic: Suwannee Lumber Company is proud to sponsor our annual golf tournament on the beautiful Dye’s Valley course. Sign up for the tournament on the attached registration form for a great golfing experience and networking time with other forest professionals and friends. Tee-time is 8 AM, Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Golf is open to all FFA members and guests; meeting registration is not required to play in the tournament.

Group Fun Run/Walk: Non-golfers are invited to join in on a Group Fun Run/Walk on Wednesday, September 4 at 8:00 am. Sawgrass Marriott offers a 4-mile course for everyone from ambitious athletes to sedate strollers.

Highwayman Demo: Famed Highwayman R. L. Lewis will treat art lovers to a live demonstration of his painting on Wednesday, September 4, at 10 AM.

Donate to the Silent Auction!

FFA’s 2013 Silent Auction promises to be the best one yet! In keeping with our “Growing Through Change” theme, we are expanding our selections to include a Growers Market featuring homemade goods such as jams, jellies, honey, sauces, candies and other homegrown offerings.

Donations are greatly appreciated. All contributors are recognized in Association publications, in annual meeting registration information, at the event and during the Auction.

Many thanks to the following “early bird” supporters of this event:

ArborGen Inc. SuperTree Seedlings
Bankers South Lending & Finance LLC
Barry Hartley
Bay Point Wyndham Resort, Panama City Beach
Bill Columbus & Julie Cook
“Boogie” G. W. Cochran
Brooks Forestry Consulting-Jerry & Darcie Brooks
Bubba & Maria Greene
Charles D. Williams
Cochran Forest Products - Carlton and Georgia Jones
Cochran Forest Products - Dick & Karyl Cochran
David Dumas
Don & Michele Curtis
F&W Forestry Services, Inc.
Flint Equipment Company
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
Florida Tree Farm Committee
Foley Timber and Land Company
Forestry Club and SAF Student Chapter, SFRC, UF
Forestry Graduate Student Organization, SFRC, UF
Fort Milton Farms
Georgia-Pacific LLC
Hog Walter Mud Bog
Hollinswood Ranch
J. D. Timberlands, Inc.
Jeff & Linda Vowell
Jeff Woodworth, Voss Signs, LLC
Jennifer Greene
Jim Karel, State Forester, Florida Forest Service
Jordan’s Studio, Inc.
LandMark Spatial Solutions, LLC
Larry Korhnak
Lonclala, Incorporated
Mike & Julie Branch
Mitsubishi Power Systems Americas
Natural Resource Planning Services, Inc.
Natural Resource Planning Services, Inc. - Legacy Forestry Services
Neal Land & Timber Company, Inc.
Oregon Corrections Enterprises
Outdoor Underwriters, Inc.
Payden C. Welker
Phil Gornicki
Plum Creek Timber Company
Ring Power Corporation
RockFenn
Rodney Schwab
Ryan Pavlik
Sawgrass Marriott
School of Forest Resources and Conservation, UF
Sonny’s Real Pit Bar-B-Q
Southern Forestry Consultants, Inc.
St. Joe Timberland Company
Stan Rosenthal
Tom King (SUPERTRAK, Inc.)
Towler Land & Timber, Inc.
Usher Land & Timber, Inc.
Wyatt R. Thomas

If you have an item you would like to donate to the auction, please contact Debbie Bryant at 850.222.5646 or Debbie@FloridaForest.org.

Hotel Information

Sawgrass Marriott Resort & Spa
Ponte Vedra Beach
Room Rate $129 nightly
Phone: (904) 267.4653
Group Name: Florida Forestry Association
Group Code: FFAFFAA

Sawgrass Marriott Resort & Spa
Ponte Vedra Beach
Room Rate $129 nightly
Phone: (904) 267.4653
Group Name: Florida Forestry Association
Group Code: FFAFFAA

Sawgrass Marriott Resort & Spa
Ponte Vedra Beach
Room Rate $129 nightly
Phone: (904) 267.4653
Group Name: Florida Forestry Association
Group Code: FFAFFAA
**Trade Show Exhibitors**

Each year, Florida’s largest forestry trade show is held in conjunction with the Association’s annual meeting. Exhibitors take advantage of this time to visit with the most comprehensive gathering of forest business owners and managers, landowners and professional foresters in Florida. This year’s exhibitors include the following:

- American Forest Management
- American Rx Fire Appliances
- ArborGen SuperTree Seedlings
- Association of Consulting Foresters Fl Chapter
- Bankers South Lending & Finance LLC
- Blanton’s Longleaf Container Nursery
- Coldwell Banker Commercial Saunders Real Estate
- Crop Production Services Farm Credit
- Flag Credit Union
- Florida Forest Service
- Florida Project Learning Tree
- Florida Tree Farm Program
- Hog Waller Mud Bog
- Humate International, Inc.
- International Forest Company
- JAXPORT
- LandMark Spatial Solutions, LLC
- Marden Industries, Inc.
- Meeks’ Farms & Nursery, Inc.
- Mitsubishi Power Systems Americas
- Natural Resource Planning Services, Inc.
- Outdoor Underwriters, Inc.
- Plum Creek Timber Company
- Red River Specialties, Inc.
- Ring Power Corporation
- R. L. Lewis – Highwaymen Artist
- School of Forest Resources & Conservation @ UF/IFAS
- Superior Forestry Service, Inc.
- TerraBlue Environmental LLC

For more information about the trade show, please contact Debbie Bryant at 850.222.5646 or Debbie@ForestFla.org.

**Schedule**

**Tuesday, September 3, 2013**

10:00 AM  Trade Show Set-Up

1:00 PM  Registration Desk Opens

5:00 PM  Forestry Forward - Leadership Session

6:00 PM  Icebreaker Reception

**Wednesday, September 4, 2013**

6:30 AM  Registration Desk Opens

6:30 AM  Tee-Time Coffee @ Registration Lobby

6:30 AM  Trade Show Set-Up

6:45 AM  Continental Breakfast @ Golf Course

8:00 AM  Golf Tournament

8:00 AM  Group Fun Run-Walk

10:00 AM  Trade Show and Silent Auction Open

2:00 PM  ~ R. L. Lewis:  Highwaymen Painting Demo

3:15 PM  General Session - Herschel Vinyard, DEP:
          Working Forests

4:15 PM  Board Meeting

6:00 PM  Welcome Reception

**Thursday, September 5, 2013**

7:00 AM  Morning Coffee

8:00 AM  Awards Breakfast

10:00 AM  Trade Show Social/Final Auction Bidding

12:00 PM  Trade Show Teardown


1:00 PM  New Wood Markets & Wood Project Development

1:30 PM  General Session:  WMD Mission and Goals:  Dr. Ann Shortelle
          (SRWMD), Jon Steverson (NWFWMD), and Hans Tanzler (SJRWMD)

2:00 PM  ~ Wildlife BMPs:  Scott Sanders (FWC), Jeff Vowell (FFS) and
          Doug Rillstone (Broad & Cassel)

4:15 PM  General Session - Jim Karels, FFS:
          Forest Inventory Analysis

4:30 PM  Gainesville Renewable Energy Center

6:00 PM  Welcome Reception

**Special Guest**

Congressman Steve Southerland will be our special guest at the awards breakfast on Thursday morning, September 5. He will update us on the latest news from Washington, focusing on issues of interest to the forest industry.

**Registration**

To register, fill out the form below and mail it to our office. Online registration is also available on our website, www.FloridaForest.org.

**FFA 2013 Annual Meeting**

**GROWING THROUGH CHANGE**

**September 3-5**

Sawgrass Marriott • Ponte Vedra Beach

Please photocopy this form for each registration packet desired. For best rates, mail or fax by August 7, 2013, to Florida Forestry Association, P.O. Box 1696/ Tallahassee, FL 32302 • Fax 850.222.6179 • Phone 850.222.5646

Name: ____________________________

Company Name: ____________________

Email: ____________________________

Address: __________________________

City: __________ State: __________ Zip: __________

Phone: ____________________________

*Check here if you are a FFA Annual Meeting Member:

Registration Policy:

Cancellations: Cancellations must be received by FFA no later than August 7. Registration fees are not guaranteed for cancellations received after August 7 and refunds are not offered.

No Shows: No shows will be charged the regular registration fee of $360. The fine waives if you are a FFA member.

*Extra Tickets for Guests/Optional Events (Full registration needed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Number Attending</th>
<th>Amount Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade Show Social</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Breakfast</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Night Low Country Bilt</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Tournament</td>
<td>$95</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Logger Lunch</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*TOTAL (Registrations, Extra Tickets, Golf) $______________

I have enclosed full payment for the events indicated, or I authorize a charge below:

Amount Enclosed: __________

Card #: ____________________________

Exp Date: __________________________

Amount: ____________________________

**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 faxing us at: (850) 222-6179; or by phone at: (850) 222-6179.

Pines & Needles is ISSN 1091-563X (USPS 041-757) is published bimonthly by the Florida Forestry Association, 402 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301. Subscriptions through membership only at an annual cost of $5 per member.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Tallahassee, Florida. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Pines & Needles, P.O. Box 1696, Tallahassee, Florida 32302.