WILDLIFE BMPs ADOPTED
A new set of Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to the protection of 16 species of Florida wildlife has been officially adopted by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The adoption of the wildlife BMPs for forestry represents the culmination of a multi-year effort directed primarily at proactively protecting a certain group of “imperiled” species so as to strengthen the case that any potential federal listing is not warranted.

The wildlife BMPs will serve as an alternative to the need to obtain an incidental take permit for these species. They are voluntary measures to be used at landowners’ discretion. They are practical and easily understood and applied.

The wildlife BMPs will exist as a completely separate document from the silviculture BMP manual for maintaining water quality. The forestry wildlife BMP manual is available under the Resources tab/Managing Your Forest section of the FFA website (www.FloridaForest.org).

“WORKING FORESTS PARTNERS”
The Working Forests Partners, a collaboration of the forest industry, regulatory agencies, conservation community and others who understand the need to protect and promote Florida’s working forests, gathered for their second meeting of the year on Dec. 2, 2014, at beautiful Goodwood Plantation in Tallahassee.

Items on the agenda included issues of importance or concern to the participants, such as the newly released Forestry Wildlife Best Management Practices for State Imperiled Species, which was distributed to meeting participants. Also discussed were the recently passed Amendment 1, which sets aside funding from the state budget for land and water conservation, and a proposal for a reforestation cost-share program.

“I think the most important result of these meetings is the open dialogue they create,” said FFA Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. “We are finding a lot of common concerns and common ground. We all have a stake in the enormous benefits that working forests provide, and that’s where our central focus lies: Keeping working forests working.”

POSITION OPENING AT FFA
The Florida Forestry Association seeks a highly motivated professional to manage the daily operations of the Association and coordinate the Association’s involvement and input on governmental regulatory issues. This position is responsible for the daily management of the Association’s goals and objectives, including strategic planning and personnel management.

A four-year degree in forestry, a minimum of five years of experience that includes supervisory and/or managerial experience, and strong organizational and communication skills are required. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. A competitive benefits package is offered.

Moderate in-state travel is required. Please send resume and salary requirements, in confidence, to Alan@ForestFla.org or mail to Alan Shelby, Florida Forestry Association, P.O. Box 1696, Tallahassee, FL, 32302. The application deadline is January 16, 2015. For more information, please visit the Career Center on the FFA website (www.FloridaForest.org).

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
FFA will host two regional membership meetings in February 2015. These events are designed to give our members the opportunity to network with other forestry professionals and fellowship with good friends on a local level.

At both meetings, the floor will be open for discussion. Participants can address issues of concern and interest, as well as provide invaluable input to FFA leadership and staff.

Current members are encouraged to bring prospective members so they can also experience why FFA is Florida’s recognized leader in representing all facets of the state’s forest industry.

February 5, 2015 (Thursday), 5:30 PM (EST)
Austin Cary Forest Learning Center, Gainesville, FL
Reservation deadline: January 26, 2015.

February 16, 2015 (Monday), 11:30 AM (CST)
Nokuse Plantation @ E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center, Freeport, FL
Reservation deadline: February 6, 2015.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, Farm Credit, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida and Arbogen, there is no cost to attend. However, to ensure accurate headcounts for the meals, reservations are required. Please contact Debbie Bryant at the FFA office for more information or to make reservations (850.222.5646 or Debbie@FloridaForest.org).

SAVE THE DATE!
2015 Annual Meeting & Trade Show
August 25-27, 2015
Wyndham Bay Point Golf Resort & Spa
Panama City Beach, Florida
TREEPAC SUCCESSFUL IN 2014 ELECTIONS

TREEPAC -- the only Political Action Committee representing Florida’s forest industry -- actively participated in 53 state House and Senate races. Of those, 49 candidates (92%) supported by TREEPAC were successful in their bid for office. TREEPAC is nonpartisan and contributed to the campaigns of Democrats and Republicans who support the forest industry.

TREEPAC Chair Carlton Jones attributed TREEPAC's success to the support of FFA members: “No industry in our state needs a political action organization more than forestry: Most forestry operations are in North Florida, but most legislators are from South Florida,” he said. “Once again this year, TREEPAC helped elect candidates who will work to protect your ability to grow, harvest and use forest resources. And once again, the support of our members made that possible.”

Voters returned Gov. Rick Scott and his entire Cabinet -- Ag Commissioner Adam Putnam, Attorney General Pam Bondi and Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater -- to their offices for another term. Republicans maintained control of the state House and Senate and the US House; they also gained control of the US Senate.

Only one of the three constitutional amendments on the ballot this election was approved by voters: Amendment #1, which dedicates funds to acquire and restore conservation and recreation lands, passed handily with 75% of the voters approving. Amendment #2, which legalized medical marijuana, fell two points short of the 60% threshold needed for passage. And Amendment #3, which dealt with gubernatorial appointments of judges, failed with only 48% approval.

These statements are posted to satisfy circulation requirements of the US Postal Service.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Welcome to our new and returning members (October 2013–December 2014):

Aller Properties, LLC
Amazing Grace Cropsmaze
Andrew Footman Jr.
Hauling & Tractor Services
Barfuss, Timmy
Batten, Kevin
Blang, Erik
Black, Eric K.
Blanton Logging
Blanton, Jarred
Blue Run Ranches Hunt Club
Breeden, Chetley
Bright Prospect Hunting Club
Brown, William
Brumley, II, Roland
Burgundy Timber, Inc.
C&N Timber, LLC
Carter, Brad
Carter, Wade
Cherokee Ranch
Clark, Frankie
Coldwell Banker Commercial
Saunders Real Estate Forestry Group
Cole, Patty
Couch, Ted
Cow House Dove Club
deBrauwere, John & Dominica
Depratter, Vickie & Rusty
Deputy Hunting Club
Deseret Cattle & Timber
Ditty Construction Services
Ditty, Chad
Donna B. Stadsklev Trust
Farley Cattle Co.
Foran, Jr., C. Allen
Gateway Tract
Gent, Brad
Godwin, D. Gillie
Goodin, Matt
Griner, Korey
Grubbs, Kenneth J.
Hamlin, Wade S.
Hammond, Mark
Hampton, James E.
Hand, David H.
Harper, William
Harrison, Donald J.
Hatcher, Thomas
Highland Tractor Company
Hilliard Brothers LLLP
Howell Logging
Huntley, N. Jordan
Johns Hunting Club
Johnson, II, James H.
JS Boyd Consulting
K & B Landscape Supply, Inc.
Keller, Deborah
Kloeper, Melody
Koon, Jr., William D.
Land, Liza Childers
Land’s Palm Trees Inc.
Laude, Maria
Lianne L. Cunningham
Trust, et al.
Long, Douglas M.
Low Land Timber LLC
Lynch, Kirby
Magnotti, David & Julie
Manning, Michael
Mason, Charles Alex
Mathews, Wendy
Matuszak, Brett
McCord, Greg
McDavid Hunting Club
MDS Logging, LLC
Mia Hunt Group
Middleton, Keith
Missouri Department of Transportation
Mondon Hill Militia
MRT Hunt Club
MRT Properties, LLC
Mulch Manufacturing, Inc.
Native Forest Management
Ogburn, Billy Joe
Olustee Creek Hunting Club
Owens, George
Parker Land Company
Pollock, Misty
Quality Acres
Raymond James Associates, Inc.
Reece, Charlie
Roberts, Christopher
Ron N. Mason CPA, LLC
Root'em Out
Sapp, Jeremy
Shade Timber LLC
Shaw’s Land Clearing LLC
Shep, Jack
Shoal River Tree Huggers
Singleton Forestry Services
Spring Creek Hunt Club
Sprow, John
Stadsklev Farm & Seed
Stathopoulos, Aleko
Swamp Fox Agency
The Lyme Timber Company
Turkey Slue Hunt Club
Wade Feagle Enterprises, LLC
Wheeler, David C.
Wherry Truck Lines, Inc.
Whitfield Farms & Nursery
Williams Brothers Trucking, Inc.
Wood Resource Recovery LLC
**STAFF CHANGES AT FFS**

David Core recently retired from his position as the Florida Forest Service’s Assistant Director after almost 30 years of distinguished service. Core began his career with FFS in 1985 and has served in a variety of roles throughout the years.

Jeff Vowell has been selected as Core’s successor. Vowell has been with FFS since 1987. Prior to his new appointment, he was most recently responsible for Field Operations and the Forest Hydrology Program, overseeing BMP development, implementation, effectiveness monitoring and other regulatory aspects.

“FFS has lost a valuable asset with David Core’s retirement,” said Alan Shelby, FFA Executive Vice President. “We are fortunate to have someone as capable and knowledgeable as Jeff Vowell to succeed him. Both of these men have contributed greatly to Florida’s forest community over the years.”

**COGONGRASS TREATMENT COST-SHARE PROGRAM**

The Florida Forest Service is now accepting applications for the Cogongrass Treatment Cost-Share Program. Cogongrass is an invasive, non-native grass that grows in Florida and several other southeastern states.

This program is offered for non-industrial private lands in all Florida counties. It provides reimbursement of 50 percent of the cost to treat cogongrass infestations for two consecutive years. Applicants who wish to conduct treatments in 2015 may apply through Feb. 27, 2015.

For more information or an application, please contact Phil Gornicki at the FFA office (850.222.5646 or Phil@ForestFla.org).

**FFA BRANDED ITEMS**

If your new year resolution is to show your FFA pride, you are in luck! Shirts and other gear with the FFA logo or “Working Forests Work” insignia can now be ordered from The Clothesline in Tallahassee through a link on the FFA website.

The Clothesline will customize any item in their catalog with your choice of logos below. Visit the “FFA Branded Items” page under the “About” tab on the website (www.FloridaForests.org) to start the process. The Clothesline can also be reached at 850.877.9171.

**CHIPOLA SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Rex Lumber Company is awarding scholarships for the Fall 2015 semester at Chipola College for students pursuing an Associate of Science degree in Engineering Technology specializing in Advanced Manufacturing: Pneumatics, Hydraulics and Motors Certification.

The deadline to apply is May 1, 2015. For more information and an application, please contact Lee Ann Fisch at the FFA office (850.222.5646 or LeeAnn@ForestFla.org).

**FFA MEMBER INSURANCE PROGRAMS**

Did you know that as an FFA member you are eligible for low rates on insurance coverage for your land through Outdoor Underwriters?

Timberland Fire Coverage is based on the current value of your timber and protects your timber investment in the case of a fire disaster:

- Minimum premiums starting as low as $20.
- Excludes prescribed burn and slash burn activities.
- Insurable timber value limits from $2,500 - $100,000 (higher limits available).

Hunting Lease Liability Coverage provides policyholders with $1 million of insurance coverage per occurrence and $2 million aggregate per hunting club limit.

There’s no deductible and it provides member-to-member and guest liability coverage. This hunting lease liability program has been in place for more than 20 years and is insured through Lloyd’s of London – the world’s oldest and largest insurer.

Standing Timber Insurance Coverage not only protects your valuable crop from perils normally associated with timber losses, it lets you borrow against an insured asset. This program allows you to take full advantage of land-buying and other opportunities.

Borrowing against an insured asset is almost always an easier, less costly way to finance purchases. And your insurance premium may even be tax-deductible.

For more information, please call Outdoor Underwriters at 866.961.4101. Please note that these programs are only available to current FFA members in good standing.

**BUILDING FUND**

In 1980, the Florida Forestry Association purchased an old apartment building, just blocks from the State Capitol. The building was renovated, transforming it into FFA’s official headquarters and a showplace of our industry’s wood products.

Through financial contributions and donated materials, members were very much a driving force in the remodeling.

Fast forward to 2015, and our showcase building is in need of long overdue repairs, with estimated costs of $60,000. The list of needs includes a new roof, exterior wood rot repair and painting, replacement of surface wood on the deck, new floor treatments to replace the 34-year-old carpeting, and other miscellaneous repairs and upgrades.

In the new year, FFA will be reaching out to members to ask for their support with this worthwhile project. Our members deserve a headquarters that is a proud reflection of the industry it represents!

For more information, please contact Debbie Bryant at 850.222.5646 or Debbie@ForestFla.org.

**MASTER LOGGER 2015 ANNUAL UPDATE CALENDAR**

March 7 – Branford
April 1 – Milton
July 15 – Quincy
October 14 – Perry
November 5 – Gainesville
December 10 – Lake City

Each class begins at 8 AM and ends no later than noon.

Dates for the Master Logger 2-day class will be available in January. For more information, contact Phil Gornicki (850.222.5646 or Phil@ForestFla.org).
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