WILLIAM COOK’S INDUCTION INTO AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME

Longtime Association member William Cook will be inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame at the Florida State Fair on February 14, 2017. Among many other accomplishments, Mr. Cook is a Past President of the Association, as well as the recipient of its Living Legend award. Tickets for the dinner cost $60 and are available online at www.FloridaAgHallofFame.org through February 10, 2017. Details and directions can also be found on the website.

SFRC DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED

Senior Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources for UF/IFAS Jack Payne announced this week that Dr. Terrell “Red” Baker, currently the Chair of the Forestry Department at the University of Kentucky and the “James Graham Browne Endowed Professor of Forestry,” will be the next Director of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation. He will replace Dr. Tim White, who has retired. Said Dr. Payne: “This is an important position within IFAS and the University of Florida and I am pleased that we were able to attract such a strong candidate to be the next Director.”

Dr. Baker will begin his position at UF on April 1, 2017. The Association is grateful to Dr. Payne and SFRC for allowing us to participate in the election process.

TREEPAC WINS IN THE 2016 ELECTIONS

TREEPAC -- the only Political Action Committee representing Florida’s forest industry -- actively participated in 53 state House and Senate races. Of those, an impressive 43 candidates (81%) 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 Jimmy Bielling attributed TREEPAC’s success to the support of Association members: “Once again, 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,” he said.

FLORIDA CELEBRATES WORKING FORESTS WEEK

In celebration of Working Forests Week, at its October meeting the Florida Cabinet passed resolutions honoring Florida’s working forests as well as our state forests, whose 80th anniversary was also observed in October.

John Alter, chair of the Association’s Working Forests Task Force, reported that more than 70 events were held in honor of the awareness week, October 16-22, 2016. These included a mix of school activities, landowner meetings, tours and presentations to civic and professional organizations. He noted that there was also a variety of earned media placements as well as social media engagement.

“The theme for this year was #ForestProud, which gave us the perfect opportunity to share some of the many reasons we are all so proud to be part of this industry,” Alter said.

“I’m gratified by how much participation in Working Forests Week has grown this year in all aspects,” said Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. “We are especially grateful to the Florida Forest Service for partnering with us on this project and hosting events across the state.”
#FORESTPROUD MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

What’s better than growing the Association that represents Florida’s forest industry and sharing all the reasons we are #ForestProud? Winning a two-day stay at a luxurious beach resort — and/or cash — for doing it!

Talk to your family, friends, neighbors and business associates about being #ForestProud! Explain the importance of strength in numbers in protecting Florida’s working forests and the benefits they receive from membership.

You will be awarded one point for every dollar generated from dues received through new members or reinstated members you recruit from August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017. Two night’s accommodations for two will be awarded to the top recruiter (highest point total/400 point minimum) as follows:

- **Sheraton Bay Point Resort**, Panama City Beach, FL (valid dates: February 1, 2017-February 28, 2018. Based on availability; some exclusions may apply.)
- **Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort**, Sandestin (valid dates: February 1, 2017-August 1, 2018. Luau Studio Unit. Based on availability; some exclusions may apply.)
- **Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort**, Sandestin (valid dates: August 1, 2017-August 1, 2018. Based on availability; some exclusions may apply.)
- **Sheraton Bay Point Resort**, Panama City Beach (valid dates: February 1, 2017-February 28, 2018. Based on availability; some exclusions may apply.)

THANK YOU to our Florida Forestry Association #ForestProud membership campaign prize donors:

- Sheraton Bay Point Resort
- Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort
- www.SheratonBayPointResort.com
- www.Sandestin.com
- Panama City Beach, FL
- Sandestin, FL

In addition, our overall top recruiter (August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017) will be awarded a $500 cash prize.

*Please remember to place your name on the Recommended for Membership by line on the membership application. You may also email Debbie@ForestFla.org with the names of those who you have contacted.

*Applications can be found on our website, www.FloridaForest.org, under the Membership tab at the top right of the screen. You may also contact our office to receive applications by mail.

GET ACTIVE!

An easy and effective way to be active in your association is by joining one of our committees: Government Relations, Environmental, Steering or Communications. To learn more, please visit our website at www.FloridaForest.org/Programs/Committees.

FOREST ROADS UPDATE

Our partners at the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) report that the deadline has passed for anyone to challenge in federal court the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) determination that stormwater discharges from forest roads do not warrant regulation under the Clean Water Act, and no lawsuit has been filed.

“While the EPA determination is secure, continued vigilance is necessary,” said NAFO’s Vice President for Policy and General Counsel, Chip Murray. “It is critical for forest owners to continue use of BMPs and for the state foresters to maintain their education and monitoring programs. We urge you to support those efforts and support the all-important funding for those efforts. EPA relied in part on the vitality of these programs as the basis for its negative determination.”

NEW MEMBERS LIST

Welcome to all our new members who joined the Association in 2016!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Company</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johns, Justin</td>
<td>Johnson, Evan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kilbee Hunt Club</td>
<td>Kinslow, Christopher</td>
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<td>Kissimmee Valley Forester</td>
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<td>North 40 Hunt Club</td>
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<td>Petrey &amp; Petrey Inc.</td>
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<td>Old Timers Hunt Club</td>
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<td>Reed, Thomas</td>
<td>Peetra Huang, Ben</td>
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<td>Shoal River River Hunting Club</td>
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<td>Smith, Tucker</td>
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<td>The Freakin Timber Company</td>
<td>The Molpus Woodlands Group, LLC</td>
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<td>Voyles, Inc.</td>
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<td>Whitley, Inc.</td>
<td>Whitis, Derek</td>
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<td>Wiggins, Rhett</td>
<td>WVU MountainDEERS</td>
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PLANNED GIVING, BEQUESTS AND CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Consider making a gift of a lifetime to support the future of Florida’s working forests by naming the Florida Forestry Association or Florida Forestry Foundation as a beneficiary in your will, charitable trust, life insurance policy, estate plan or retirement plan. Please contact Alan Shelby at 850.222.5646 for more information.
YEAR IN REVIEW: LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

With 2016 still clearly in the rearview mirror, let’s take a moment to reflect on the highlights of all the past year had to offer and to look ahead to the opportunities the new year presents.

No matter what the year, advocacy is always a priority for the Association. On the federal level, the Association continued to advocate for our membership on crucial ongoing issues such as Waters of the US (WOTUS), Forest Roads, truck weights, taxes and H2B.

On the state level, among several other successes, our members will benefit from legislation that prohibits counties from levying fire assessments on lands classified as Greenbelt. The bill, HB 773, becomes effective November 1, 2017. Additional money will be saved by legislation that made the sales tax on manufacturing equipment and machinery permanent.

Once again this year, our members were actively involved in the process on both federal and state levels. They met with legislators in their districts and their capitol offices. They participated in the Association’s joint legislative day/Working Forest Partners meeting in Tallahassee during session. They responded to BIPAC legislative action alerts. And they supported TREEPAC, the Association’s state Political Action Committee, contributing more than $45,000 in the 2016 election cycle to help elect candidates who support the forest industry. In January, Bubba and Maria Greene also hosted a tour of their Tree Farm as part of Congresswoman Gwen Graham’s North Florida Farm Tour (pictured below).

The 2017 state legislative session begins on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. The Association’s legislative day and Board meeting will be Wednesday, March 8, and Thursday, March 9, 2017.

The success of our regional membership meetings continued to grow in 2016. Held at the Austin Cary Learning Center in Gainesville and Neal Land & Timber’s camp in Scott’s Ferry, these gatherings provided a forum for our members to weigh in on issues of importance to them and also gave participants a chance to network and fellowship with fellow forestry professionals on a local level.

Thanks to the enthusiastic response to our 2016 meetings, the 2017 roster is expanding! Mark your calendars now and watch for details to follow in 2017.

2017 Membership Meetings:
Thursday, March 16
11:30 am-1:30 pm (Central)
Lunch/meeting
Blountstown @ Bennett Eubanks, III

Thursday, March 23
5:30-7:30 pm (Eastern)
Social/hors d’oeuvres
Tallahassee @ Florida Forestry Association office

Thursday, March 30
11:00 am-2:00 pm (Eastern)
Lunch/meeting
Crystal River @ Hollinswood Ranch

The second annual Working Forests Week was another highlight of 2016. Events included a Cabinet proclamation, school presentations, tours, speeches to local civic and professional groups and a variety of earned media. Events were held across the state and exhibited growing involvement with this important awareness campaign. Pictured below, Eric Handley and Ken Griner lead an activity with students from Chiefland Elementary School.

2016 was a banner year for some of our members as well: M. A. Rigoni, Inc., was honored as the 2016 National Logger of the Year (owners Gary Brett and Rodney Schwab pictured below).

Our members did an impressive job making this year an even bigger success than last year’s. Many thanks also go to State Forester Jim Karels and his amazing team at the Florida Forest Service for all their efforts.

Working Forests Week 2017 is tentatively scheduled for October 15-21, 2017.

The Association also completed its building fund campaign and related projects. Thanks to the support of members, your headquarters has been transformed into the showplace the forest industry deserves. Improvements include a new roof, a new deck, interior and exterior painting, replacement of the 30+ year old carpeting, energy efficient windows, and a new sign out front.

AND THAT’S NOT ALL!

Annual Meeting ... Timber Theft Task Force ... a newly digital (and now free!) Environmental Law Manual ... Master Logger training classes ... the Florida Forestry Teachers’ Tour ... the Forest Discovery Center at the Florida State Fair ... Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Tour ... Log a Load for Kids fundraisers ... The complete list of all that happened in 2016 — and that is expected to happen in 2017 — is far too extensive to print.

The underlying importance of all these events — listed and not, past and future — is that your Association is always hard at work for you. Our aim is to ensure that your voice is heard in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C.; to promote the value of working forests to our economy and environment; and to provide you with the information, education and opportunities you need to succeed.

In short, we want to make sure your membership matters to you as much as it does to us.

We wish you all a happy and prosperous 2017!