The 2018 state legislative session begins early this year with opening ceremonies on Tuesday, January 9, 2018. The Association’s legislative day and Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 30, and Wednesday, January 31, respectively.

As part of its advocacy efforts, the Association contracted with UF/IFAS to conduct an economic impact study for the forest industry. The latest available numbers show that the forest industry boosted the state’s economy by more than $25 billion and helps provide jobs for more than 124,000 people. The full report is available on our website (www.FloridaForest.org) under the Resources tab.

The success of our regional membership meetings continued to grow in 2017. In addition to lunches held at Bennett Eubanks’ Tree Farm in Blountstown and Hollinswood Ranch in Crystal River, the Association hosted an after-hours event at its office in Tallahassee to show off the results of its recent renovations. All of 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, membership meetings are now a mainstay on the Association’s calendar. See below for the 2018 dates and locations. Please reserve your spot by contacting Debbie Bryant (Debbie@ForestFla.org or 850.222.5646). Look for your invitation in the mail soon!

2018 Membership Meetings:

Thursday, February 15
11:30 am-1:30 pm (Eastern)
Lunch/meeting
Jacksonville @ Dee Dot Timberlands

Thursday, March 8
11:30 am-1:30 pm (Eastern)
Lunch/meeting
Havana @ Coastal Plywood Company’s Magnolia Lodge

The third annual Working Forests Week was another highlight of 2017. Members gave school presentations, tours, speeches to local civic and professional groups, and more! Events were held across the state and exhibited growing involvement with this important awareness campaign.

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 2018 is tentatively scheduled for October 21-27, 2018.

2017 was an especially memorable year for some of our members as well:

William Cook was inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame in February. It was announced in October that Harold Mikell will be inducted in 2018. (Details about Mr. Mikell’s induction can be found on Page 2.)

In October, the 23rd Annual Tommy Usher Log A Load For Kids Golf Classic celebrated a $1 million milestone for donations made to the UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital in Gainesville, FL!

Since joining the Log A Load campaign efforts in 1995, Florida’s forestry community and friends have raised over $2 million for hospitals associated with the Children’s Miracle Network in Florida.
AND THAT’S NOT ALL!

Annual Meeting ... 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 ... Forestry Forward events ... Working Forest Partners... The complete list of all that happened in 2017 -- and that is expected to happen in 2018 -- 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 New Year!

Happy New Year!

HAROLD MIKELL TO JOIN FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME

Please join us in congratulating longtime Association member Harold Mikell, who will be inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame at the Florida State Fair on Tuesday, February 13, 2018.

Mr. Mikell is well known in forestry circles for his longstanding career with the Florida Forest Service/Division of Forestry. After retiring as the state forester in 1993, Mr. Mikell began a second career as an agricultural liaison with Congressman Pete Peterson, a position he continued under Congressman Allen Boyd.

The awards reception will begin at 6 PM, with the dinner and program following at 7 PM. Tickets cost $60 and can be purchased online on the Hall of Fame's website (www.FloridaAgHallofFame.org). Details and directions can also be found on the website.

ADAM PUTNAM FOR GOVERNOR

The Association is proud to announce its endorsement of Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Adam Putnam to serve as the next governor of Florida.

“Throughout his career, Adam Putnam has demonstrated a strong support of Florida’s forest industry,” said Association President Michael Dooner. “The Association appreciates his understanding of the importance of working forests to the state’s economy and environment, and we applaud his commitment to their continuing sustainability. He has been an exemplary public servant, personifying the principles of hard work, perseverance and responsibility.”

“Adam Putnam’s experience, knowledge and passion cannot be matched,” noted Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. “Having experienced his leadership and vision for the past many years, the Association has no doubt that as governor Adam Putnam will continue to make Florida an even better place to work and live. Our state can only benefit from his continued service.”

CRC PROPOSAL 23

Florida’s Constitution provides for the creation of a thirty-seven member revision commission once every twenty years for the purpose of reviewing Florida’s Constitution and proposing changes for voter consideration. Proposed amendments approved by the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) are then placed on the general election ballot by voters.

The current CRC is in the process of vetting proposals now. One of the proposals, Proposal 23, is particularly dangerous. The proposal would create a cause of action for any person to sue any party over virtually anything that could be perceived to impact the “natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment.”

Facing staunch opposition from the Association and many other agricultural and business organizations, the proposal’s sponsor requested that a vote by the CRC Judicial Committee be delayed until its next meeting in January.

“The passage of Proposal 23 would place the fate of Florida’s environment, including its forest and agricultural industries, in the hands of trial lawyers and judges who may or may not have any experience in the field,” explained Association Executive Vice President Alan Shelby. “We will remain vigilant in our fight to keep this language off the general election ballot.”

Shelby also said that the Association is carefully monitoring all proposals set forth by the Commission.

FFS LONG RANGE FORECAST SUMMARY AND FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOK

The Florida Forest Service recently released its latest long range forecast. The summary and fire potential outlook is below. The complete document can be found at http://floridaforest.org/wp-content/uploads/FFS-Long-Range-Forecast-12-17.pdf

Florida has a good chance for seeing above average temperatures and below average rainfall between January and March 2018. Historically, La Niña translates to an active fire season for Florida; however, the Significant Wildland Fire Potential for the forecast period is for normal wildland fire behavior to continue for the entire state. There is a chance this could increase to above normal potential entering April however, as above average temperatures and below average rainfall are forecast to linger through at least the end of June. Rainfall will depend on how far south the mid-latitude winter storms will come. The jet stream will generally keep these large systems centered farther north than usual due to La Niña, and since most rainfall in the winter and spring are from cold fronts associated with these storms, this could have an impact on how much rain the state receives, and how far below average the total will be by the end of March.

SAVE SOME BUCKS

Partnering with Outdoor Underwriters, Inc., the Association offers members reduced insurance rates for hunting leases.

Liability insurance for timberland and prescribed burns is also available.

Contact Mike Branch (Mike@ForestFla.org or 850.222.5646) for more information.

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.
NEW MEMBERS
Welcome to all our new members who joined the Association in 2017!

4-BS Hunt Club
Albritton, Lawrence
Alpine Lumber Company, Inc.
Anderson, John
Armbrister, Tamiko Jackson
Armington Ranch Hunt Club
Arrington, Christopher
Art Nussel Jr. Hunt Club
Asbel, James
B & B Business Park, LTD.
B & B Logging, LLC
Bailey Brothers, Inc.
Baker, Terrell T. “Red”
Barden’s Hunting Club
Baker, Terrell T. “Red”
Bailey Brothers, Inc.
B & B Logging, LLC
Baker, Terrell T. “Red”
B & B Logging, LLC
Baker, Terrell T. “Red”
B & B Logging, LLC
Baker, Terrell T. “Red”

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

FORESTRY FORWARD ACTIVITIES
The Association’s Forestry Forward leadership group participated in events recently which included an equipment demonstration in Homerville, GA, and a gopher tortoise recipient site tour in Green Cove Springs, FL.

John Deere and Klausner Lumber One LLC invited our group to watch their clear cutting and cut-to-length processing of slash timber. The equipment was being tested and evaluated on a couple of tracts where discussion was held on the pros and cons of utilizing this cutting-edge harvester and forwarder. Lunch on the grounds was provided and participants had the opportunity to climb onboard for a hands-on experience!

George and Ellen Ashby, Landowners/Gopher Tortoise (GT) Recipient Site Managers, hosted an exclusive event for Forestry Forward, including a history of the property, how the GT site works, and a tour of the property. Tony Wallace, CBC Saunders Real Estate/Natural Resource Planning Services, planned the event and sponsored lunch on the property.
SOUTHERN PINE PLANTATIONS

Pat Duane
Tallahassee, FL 32308
Business Phone: (850) 878-2121
3131 Lonnbladh Road
CELL: 386-362-8345
Fax: 850-838-2680
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LAND WANTED

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• Land & Small Timber Tracts

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