Golf Tourney Big Hit for LAL

Raising more than $33,000, the 19th Annual Tommy Usher Log a Load Golf Tournament was a big hit for Log a Load for Kids and for participating golfers. Held September 26, 2013, at the Chiefland Golf and Country Club, the event boasted many highlights, including a delicious lunch provided by Farm Credit grillmasters and a memorable hole in one by Patrick Allen, who was playing only his second round of golf.

First Place Low Gross went to the team of Brian Faircloth, Billy Grant, Hardy O’Quinn and Nick Albritton. First Place Low Net went to the team of Tim Bowen, Michael Moore, Patrick Allen and John Turner.

Many thanks to all the sponsors, donors, players and volunteers who helped make the tournament so successful!

Congressional Panel Hears Freight Transportation Issues

The Panel on 21st Century Freight Transportation, created by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, recently heard testimony regarding possible improvements to the operating environment for freight shipment. Representatives of four prominent shippers testified: rice growers, steel, chemical manufacturers and forest products manufacturers.

International Paper’s Senior Vice President of Consumer Packaging, Tom Kadien, advocated for improved trucking efficiency through the passage of the Safe & Efficient Transportation Act (HR 612). The Act would create opportunities to consolidate loads, reduce the trucking footprint and ameliorate public safety concerns.


Common themes from all testimonies included concerns about railroad monopolies and the need for accelerated dredging of waterways to increase their capacities.

No More Fee for Forestry WMD Permit

The $250 fee for receiving a permit from the state’s Water Management Districts (WMDs) for certain forestry-related has been eliminated with the adoption by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) of a revised environmental permitting system. Forestry activities, such as fill-road construction and stream crossings, that formerly required a “Noticed General Permit”(NGP) now qualify for the new “No-Fee Noticed Exemption for Minor Silvicultural Surface Water Management Systems” (Rule Number 62-330.0511 F.A.C).

This new rule went into effect on October 1, 2013, in each of the five WMDs. It’s important to note that this very positive regulatory change is the direct result of FFA’s Environmental Committee meeting with DEP officials last year to discuss the way silviculture was being regulated by the WMDs.
With many thanks to our sponsors, exhibitors, auction donors, speakers and participants, FFA’s 2013 annual meeting has been officially declared a success.

“This event demonstrates the strength and unity of the forest community,” FFA President Lynetta Usher Griner said. “This year we set new records in both the number and the amount of sponsorships. Our members know the annual meeting is important to everyone, and their support is phenomenal.”

FFA Executive Vice President Alan Shelby echoed her enthusiasm: “Our goal is to provide excellent educational and networking opportunities. The response to this year’s meeting tells me we are on the right track. We have a lot of folks to thank for their roles in its success.”

**Award Winning Forestry!**

**Silvicultural Contractor of the Year: Bobby Callahan**

Bobby Callahan has been active in forestry in the Florida Panhandle for more than 53 years. He retired from the Florida Forest Service after 25 years of service. In 1975, he started a tree planting business which was later expanded to include other forestry services. Callahan’s company has planted an estimated 175 million seedlings, which equals about 250,000 acres of trees. As is the case with most other silvicultural contractors, the day-to-day operations of the company are a family affair. Callahan’s wife Jeanne, oldest son Bobby, Jr. and daughter Beth are all actively involved in the business. Bobby has been an active member and strong supporter of the Florida Forestry Association since 1986.

**Tree Farmers of the Year: Jeff and Melody Scott**

Jeff and Melody Scott’s Tree Farm, Adventure Plantation, includes nearly 500 acres of lovely Suwanee County woodlands. The property was just recently certified as a Tree Farm, shortly after initial certification as a Stewardship Forest. A.W. Powers Forestry, Inc., developed the original forest management plan for Adventure Plantation, with Suwanee County Forester Brian Cobble also providing professional forestry assistance. Much of the work on the Tree Farm is done by Jeff and Melody, along with the cheerful help of their seven children.

Adventure Plantation Tree Farm is a wonderful example of how a special passion for the land translates directly into a shared experience that will provide treasured memories for one special family and a legacy of conservation for generations to come.

**Florida Logger of the Year: K&B Land and Timber Company**

K&B Land and Timber Company in Southport, FL, was established in 1999. Tim Southerland is the owner-operator along with his wife, Stacey, who runs the office. This logging and trucking operation employs nine full-time employees and utilizes two contract trucking providers.

In the early years K&B managed timber for landowners as well as purchasing and selling timber. As the business evolved, the company eventually turned their primary focus towards quality logging operations. K&B has had a contract with St. Joe Timberland Company for fourteen years harvesting timber on their lands. In addition to his logging operations, Southerland is a well-known and respected advocate for the timber industry.

**Audubon of Florida Sustained Forestry Award: LADD Plantation**

LADD Plantation is owned by the Higman family – Lucas, Adam, Dave and Denice (LADD). For the past ten years, Dave and Denice Higman have cared for and improved 1,200 acres of forestland in the rolling hills of Madison County. The couple bought the land from a timber company and have managed the forest to produce timber, a great variety of wildlife and family fun. With guidance from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission wildlife biologists and The Forestry Company foresters, the Higman’s have passionately engaged in prescribed burning, thinning, planting longleaf pines, stabilizing roads and water resource protection.

LADD Plantation provides the family with a retreat from the hustle and bustle of St. Petersburg where they own and operate a global healthcare consulting firm.

**Legislator of the Year: Sen. Wilton Simpson**

Although not from an area of the state generally associated with forestry, Sen. Wilton Simpson, R-New Port Richey, quickly proved himself a friend of our industry in his first year in office. Simpson not only successfully sponsored legislation strengthening the Greenbelt tax assessment, he was also instrumental in passage of legislation to level the playing field for “green building” requirements. Both bills were priority issues for FFA.

Simpson lives in Trilby, FL, with his family. He owns two businesses and is involved in a number of local organizations.

**Legislator of the Year: Rep. Halsey Beshears**

A freshman legislator from Monticello, FL, Rep. Halsey Beshears hit the ground running his first session. He sponsored bills addressing four of FFA’s priority issues: strengthening Greenbelt; leveling the playing field for “green buildings”; broadening the Ag Lands & Practices Act; and dealing with issues concerning the Florida Forest Service. Beshears represents House District 7, the largest geographical district in the state. He owns a landscape supply company and is a past president of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association.

**Farm Bill Update**

The nation’s Farm Bill expired on October 1. The impacts following expiration are similar to those experienced last year:

- EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program) and CSP (Conservation Security Program) were extended through to Fiscal Year 2014, so they can still operate and accept new contracts;
- WRP (Wetlands Reserve Program), GRP (Grassland Reserve Program) and CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) are not able to accept new enrollments and most energy programs are set to expire.

Generally speaking, Farm Bill programs that receive mandatory funding and are not permanently authorized have been shutdown. Crop insurance programs and SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program) will continue. Commodity programs do not terminate but revert back to permanent law from 1949. That being said, Congress is inching closer to passing a final bill. At this time funding for programs like EQIP and CRP are included, along with recognition of the environmental benefits of woodlands. Also, language is included stating that EPA should rely on state-managed BMPs rather than formal permitting programs to meet environmental goals.

The House recently passed a rule that officially combines the nutrition and agriculture portions of the Farm Bill, a procedural step toward advancing to Conference with the Senate. Both House and Senate Agriculture Committee leaders continue to express disininterest in passing another extension and are committed to passing comprehensive legislation.

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!
Welcome to New & Returning FFA Members!
October 2012 – October 2013

ACCL/Bay Properties, Inc.
Adams, Lored
Adrienne Kaplan & Samanthinha Bromage
Anders Real Estate & Timber Company, Inc.
Anderson, Mitchell
Arpeika Land Company, LLC
Asset Management Partners, Inc.
Attack-One Fire Management Services, Inc.
Baggett, Ferlon
Barneau Properties LTD
Barnes, Bobby
Bergman, Shane
Belling, Jr., Jesse
Bermore Plantation
Bitter Sweet Logging LLC
Black, Robert
Bogue, John
Boland, John
Bout Time Hunt Club
Bronson, T.J.
Broome, Dr. Frank. A.
Brown, W. “Kenny”
Bryant, Dan
Bullisch, Susan
Caliber Corp
Calogero Tree Farm LLC
Carter, Jolley & Speed, LLC
Chancery, Roy E.
Chandler, Stamps
Chipola Area Consulting, LLC
Clark, Danielle M.
Clemmos Timber Inc.
Cogburn Forest Resources
Cok, Ruthie H.
Collins Farms
Continental Forest, Inc.
Corbin, Lyles
Cotley, Scott
Covington, Arthur “Buddy”
Cremers, Ted
Crowley, Doug
Crop Production Services
D & D Timber Harvesting, Inc.
Dawson, Carl
Demens, Chris M.
Duff, Ann Hutchinson
Diamas, David M.
Dunn, Charlie
E & T Logging, LLC
Ernest Tree Service
Ewell, Matt
Farm Credit
Ferreiras, Robert
FESCO, A Division of Oliver & Dahlman Equipment Co., Inc.
FIA Timber Growth Fund
FIA Timber Partners II
Fisher Forestry, Inc.
Flatwoods Forestry, Inc.,
FLEETMATICs
Florida Forest Service
Foley, Michael T.
Ford, Jerry
Foster, Timothy R.
Fowler Farms, LLC
Fulton’s Tractor Depot, Inc.
Future Builders of America, Inc.
G & E Timber, Inc.
G Black Logging LLC
Genesee & Wyoming Inc.
Greene, Jennifer B.
Guest Forestry Services
Halmark, Steve
Hampton, Charlie
Hard Labor Creek Plantation
Harrison, Collie
Harrison, Jr., S. “Michael”
Hautamaki, Daniel
Hester, Judith Haley
Higman, David & Denise
Humate International, Inc.
Hunter, Richard
James, Jon & Kathleen
Josh-Lewis Timber Company, Inc.
K & B Land and Timber Company
Kelby Andrews Trucking & Timber, Inc.
Kellerher, Luke
Kempfer Sawmill
Kite Timber Company, Inc.
Kline Timber
Knights Forestry, Inc.
Kossuth, Susan V.
Lake Pleasant AgriTimber LLC
Land South Group
Laufer, Dale
Lasker, William
Light, Josh
Littlejohn, Cindy Row
Loes, Emily
M & T Trousdale Timber Company
Marshall, Greg
Mary C. Aplter Trustee
Mary C. Aplter Trustee and W. Ferrol Spence Trust
McCull, Early Y.
Miller, Joseph
Miller, Steven R.
Miller, William
Milligan, Allen
Moscat, Frank
Mundon, Daniel
New Forestry
New Growth LLC
Newberry, Dan
Newberry, Karen
Norris & Son Reforestation
North, Dwight
Outdoor Underwriters, Inc.
Padgett, Jr., Daniel
Peterson, Geoffrey
Petigogue, Paul A.
Pierce Timber Co., Inc.
Promise Habitat Services, LLC
Quinn, Cathy
Kempfer, L. Fox II, Inc.
Riehual and Son Logging
Rizzo Timber
Rogers, Will
S & S Food Stores
Sak免税, John B.
Sears, Ray
Seiffers, Kyle
Shebly, David
Slavic Renewable Resources LLC
Somehow Reliable Swamp Logging
Southern Forestry Consultants, Inc.
Stieves Shackle Hunt Club
Stieves, Mason
Summer, Britt
Taylor, Cory
Taylor, Rusty
Tippett’s Pine Straw
Tobies, Chris
Tuten, Dean
Upham, Ulyse
Vedruga Properties
W. Ferrel Spence Trust
Warlow, Tom
Wehner, Kyle
Wehner River Ranch, LLC
Wetland Preserve, LLC
Whitsett, Jack
Wildlands Fire Service, Inc.
Williams, Larry
Wilson, Mark
Wychte, Benjamin
Yohn, Ted