



2024 SFFGS/FLSAF SPRING SYMPOSIUM

FROM THE GROUND UP

Reforestation and Restoration for Various Objectives

April 16-17, 2024

Stern Learning Center

Austin Cary Forest

UF IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



SCHOOL OF FOREST,
FISHERIES, AND
GEOMATICS SCIENCES


Society of
American Foresters

The Spring Symposium is a cooperative event of the Florida Division Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the University of Florida IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences (SFFGS). Forestry and natural resource professionals are encouraged to attend!

The 2024 Spring Symposium will **explore reforestation and restoration techniques for various land management objectives**. From the ground up, we'll dig into site preparation, prescribed fire, species and genetics, and bring it all together in case studies featuring new technologies and various land management objectives.

The meeting will also include an update from Florida Forest Service Director, Rick Dolan; FL Division SAF Awards, our social and dinner on April 16, and FL Division SAF Business Meeting on the morning of April 17. The full event agenda is in this information packet.

Continuing education credits are approved! The Symposium approved for a total of **7.5 Cat. 1 SAF Continuing Forestry Education Credits**. Please make sure you **sign the CFE attendance records** provided at the end of each day in order to get CFE credit.

Plan to join us for this fun and educational networking event. Registration details and link are on the next page.

2024 Spring Symposium Registration

SAF Member	\$125 full registration for current members of the Society of American Foresters (no Eventbrite fee)
Non-SAF Member	\$150 regular full registration (no Eventbrite fee)
Student SAF Member	\$35 (no Eventbrite fee)
Single-day registrations are also available (+Eventbrite fee)	
Refunds can be provided up to 7 days before the event starts.	

Register online at:

<https://2024-flsaf-sffgs-spring-symposium.eventbrite.com>



Questions about the 2024 Spring Symposium can be addressed to the event Co-Chairs:

Chris Demers, cdemers@ufl.edu, (352) 846-2375;

or Marshall Hilton, mhilton@thinkf4.com

University of Florida IFAS is an Equal Opportunity Institution

2024 Spring Symposium “From the Ground Up”

*Exploring reforestation and restoration techniques
for different land management objectives*

Sponsored by the University of Florida / IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences
and the Florida Division Society of American Foresters

April 16-17, 2024

University of Florida Stern Learning Center at Austin Cary Forest

- AGENDA -

Tuesday April 16 – Full Day Session	
7:00 – 8:00 am	Exhibitor Setup
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration, Sign in (Patio Entrance)
Sponsor Exhibits	Chair: Kari Hurst, Natural Resource Planning Services (NRPS)
8:00 am	Continental breakfast, exhibits, meet & greet (Annex and Deck)
9:00	Opening , Dr. Terrell “Red” Baker, Director, UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences (SFFGS); Chris Demers, Spring Symposium Co-Chair, SFFGS, and Marshall Hilton, Chair, Florida Division Society of American Foresters and Spring Symposium Co-Chair Welcome and update from the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences
9:15	Rick Dolan, Director, Florida Forest Service “Update from the Florida Forest Service”
9:45	Refreshment and Break
10:00	Site Preparation – Moderator: Cody Ball, Student, SFFGS
10:05	Dr. Pat Minogue, SFFGS and North Florida Research and Education Center, Quincy “Components of successful reforestation”
10:50	Jimmy Bielling, Bielling Site Prep & Reforestation “Contractor perspectives on mechanical and chemical site preparation for reforestation”
11:20	Robin Holland, Best Management Practices (BMP) Program Manager, Florida Forest Service “Refresher on site preparation BMPs”
12:00 pm	Lunch Visit with exhibitors and the UF/IFAS Extension Bookstore

Tuesday April 16 – Continued

1:00 pm	Prescribed Burning – Moderator: Allie Mitchell, Student, SFFGS
1:05	John McGuire, Tall Timbers <i>“The costs of prescribed burning”</i>
1:45	Dr. Carolina Baruzzi, UF/IFAS Department of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation <i>“Using wiregrass for restoration”</i>
2:30	Refreshment Break
2:45	Species and Genetic Selection – Moderator: Brent Dixon, Student, SFFGS
2:50	Josh Faylo, Environmental Scientist and Wetland Specialist; and Audrey Plauche, Graduate Student, SFFGS <i>“Pond pine: The missing tree?”</i>
3:30	Dr. Andrew Sims, Cooperative Forest Genetics Research Program Coordinator, SFFGS <i>“Genetic considerations for restoration vs. industrial forest management goals”</i>
4:10	Florida Division SAF Awards , Scott Sager, SFFGS and Marshall Hilton, F4 Tech Sponsor Recognition , Kari Hurst, NRPS
5:00	Social on Deck
6:00	Dinner by Hills BBQ

Wednesday April 17 – Morning Session

7:30 am	Continental Breakfast
8:00	FL SAF Business Meeting , Florida Division Society of American Foresters
9:15	Bringing it all together – Moderator: Garrett Henderson, Student, SFFGS
9:20	Gage LaPierre, Graduate Student, SFFGS <i>“Groundcover restoration and enhancement: Lessons learned”</i>
10:00	Dr. Eben Broadbent, Associate Professor, SFFGS <i>“Assessing reforestation and restoration projects with remote sensing technology”</i>
10:40	Alex Clark, F4 Tech; and Melanie Kaeser, USFWS <i>“Longleaf and groundcover restoration following a major hurricane”</i>
11:30	Conclusion

Program Committee: Dr. Terrell “Red” Baker, Josh Baker, Suzette Cook, Chris Demers, Marshall Hilton, Kari Hurst, Scott Sager

The Symposium is approved for 7.5 Cat. 1 SAF Continuing Forestry Educations Credits.
Please make sure you sign the CFE attendance record provided at the end of each day.

Roland T. Stern Learning Center
University of Florida Austin Cary Forest Campus
10625 NE Waldo Rd
Gainesville, FL 32609

From I-75: Take Exit 387 (Newberry Road) east to Waldo Road (SR 24). Turn left (north). Approximately 8 miles later, you'll see a sign on the right-hand side indicating the Austin Cary Forest.

From I-10: Take Exit 343 (US 301) south. Continue south for approximately 40 miles through the cities of Starke and Waldo. From Waldo, take SR 24 south toward Gainesville. Turn left at Austin Cary Forest.

There is a stone wall and a gate at the entrance to the Austin Cary Forest. Head through the gate and stay straight, passing the front buildings and vehicles, to the Loop Road. Follow it around for about 1.5 miles, noting the signs to turn right toward Lake Mize and the Learning Center. Parking is available in several areas near the Learning Center.



Hotel Information

For those needing overnight accommodations we have a block of rooms with a special event rate have been set up at the Best Western Waldo Inn & Suites and Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel in Gainesville. Contact the hotels directly to make reservation

Best Western Waldo Inn & Suites, Waldo, FL

17230 NE US Highway 301, Waldo, FL 32694
(located just north of Austin Cary Forest)

A block of rooms is reserved at a special price, **\$101.99 for a single-king room** or **\$109.99 for a double-queen room**, at the **Best Western Waldo Inn & Suites** in Waldo, FL. Call the hotel directly at **(352) 468-2500** to make a reservation. Please mention group block name **UF Austin Cary Group** to get the special rate. A credit or debit card is required at time of booking to guarantee reservation. This block of guest rooms is being held at the special rate for a limited time. ***Please reserve your room by April 5, 2024.***

Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel, Gainesville, FL

4200 NW 97th Boulevard, Gainesville, FL 32606
(located off SR-222 at I-75 exit 390)

A block of rooms is reserved at a special price, **\$125.00** for a 2-Double or King Suite, at the **Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel and Conference Center** in Gainesville.

Call the hotel directly at **(352) 331-3336** to make a reservation. Please mention group block name **SFFGS 2024 Symposium** to get the special rate. A credit or debit card is required at time of booking to guarantee reservation. This block of guest rooms is being held at the special rate for a limited time. ***Please reserve your room by April 1, 2024.***