

FLORIDA FORESTS & WATER FORUM 2025

MONDAY & TUESDAY
APRIL 28 & 29, 2025

UF/IFAS
AUSTIN CARY FOREST CAMPUS
GAINESVILLE, FLA.

Welcome to the Florida
Forests & Water Forum

This event brings together partners from across the state to discuss the connection between healthy, managed forests and clean, reliable drinking water. Join forest landowners, utilities, conservation groups, state agencies, and others as they plan for a safe, secure future for all Floridians.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE



DAY 1: FIELD TRIP

1:30 P.M. • FIELD TOUR OF ONGOING PROJECTS –
MEET AT AUSTIN CARY FOREST CAMPUS, TOUR
UNTIL 5:00 P.M.

Join us for an afternoon tour of University of Florida's Austin Cary Forest to learn about some of the history of the forest, its purpose, and some of the ongoing projects taking place on site. Topics will include forest genetics, prescribed fire regimes, forest carbon and water dynamics, forest hydrology, forest products, and more.

6:00 TIL 8:00 P.M. • EVENING SOCIAL (RESTAURANT TBD)

DAY 2: FORUM - 9:30 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

9:30 A.M. REGISTRATION

Stern Learning Center Conference Room
(Coffee and light snacks available)

10:00 A.M. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Chris Demers, Extension Program
Manager - Florida Land Steward,
University of Florida IFAS

10:10 A.M. OVERVIEW OF FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP FOR FORESTS & WATER

Alicia Keeter, Executive Director,
Florida Rural Water Association

10:25 A.M. DEFENDING THE SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLAN

Ben Lewis, Deputy Executive Director,
Florida Rural Water Association

10:40 A.M. WATER CONSERVATION: THE UTILITY PERSPECTIVE

Andrea Ditto, Environmental Programs
Coordinator, Gainesville Regional Utilities

10:55 A.M. SILVICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Robin Holland, BMP Program Manager,
Florida Forest Service

11:15 A.M. NETWORKING EXERCISE

11:45 A.M. LUNCH (CATERED)

Visit groundwater demonstration in lobby!

[FORUM AGENDA CONTINUED ON BACK](#)

- 1:00 P.M. CONSERVATION EASEMENTS & THEIR ROLE IN LANDSCAPE-LEVEL CONSERVATION**
Chelsea Wisner, Land Protection Manager, Conservation Florida
- 1:15 P.M. NRCS PROGRAMS, FORESTRY CONSERVATION PRACTICES, & WORKING WITH YOUR LOCAL FIELD OFFICE**
Conrad Wysocki, State Staff Forester, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 1:30 P.M. FFS CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**
Greg Marshall, Conservation Programs Manager, Florida Forest Service
- 1:40 A.M. FLORIDA LAND STEWARD PROGRAM: EDUCATIONAL AND NETWORKING RESOURCES FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS**
Chris Demers, Extension Program Manager - Florida Land Steward, University of Florida IFAS
- 1:55 P.M. BREAK**
- 2:10 P.M. FOREST LANDSCAPE AND WATER CONSERVATION AND THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR**
Tom Hctor, Director, Center for Landscape Conservation Planning, University of Florida
- 2:25 P.M. OVERVIEW OF CONSERVATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES AT FLORIDA NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY**
Jon Oetting, Chief of Conservation Planning Services, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Florida State University
- 2:40 P.M. BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
- 3:25 P.M. GROUP REPORTING**
- 3:45 P.M. CLOSING & DOOR PRIZE GIVEAWAYS**

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 PARTNERS!



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