
Florida Tree Farm Program Tour:
Wetland Preserve, LLC
Property of Ben and Louann Williams
2021 Jon Gould Outstanding
Florida Tree Farmers of the Year
Putnam County, Florida



Friday, March 11, 2022

Thanks for joining us for an immersion experience in “Conservation Compatible Forestry”. This is the fitting theme of Ben and Louann Williams’ Wetland Preserve, LLC. This 3,725-acre property in Putnam County is composed of mesic flatwoods, bottomland forest, floodplain swamp, and sandhill.

Through assistance from many Florida Land Steward and Tree Farm Program partners, participation in educational events, active management, and patience they have made great strides in improving and conserving the forest and natural resources of the property. The couple passionately promote the many stewardship organizations they are involved with including the Florida Forestry Association, Forest Stewardship Program, Florida Tree Farm Program, UF Florida Land Steward Program, North Florida Land Trust, and the North Florida Prescribed Burn Association. For their land management, conservation, and outreach efforts, they were recognized as the Jon Gould Florida Outstanding Tree Farmers in 2021.



Most of the tour will involve riding in open trailers with several discussion stops and short walks. Learn more about Wetland Preserve and their conservation efforts at their web site:

<http://benandlouann.com/>



Support for this event is provided by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service’s Florida Forest Service and the Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee.

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Agenda:

9:00 AM Registration, Meet & Greet

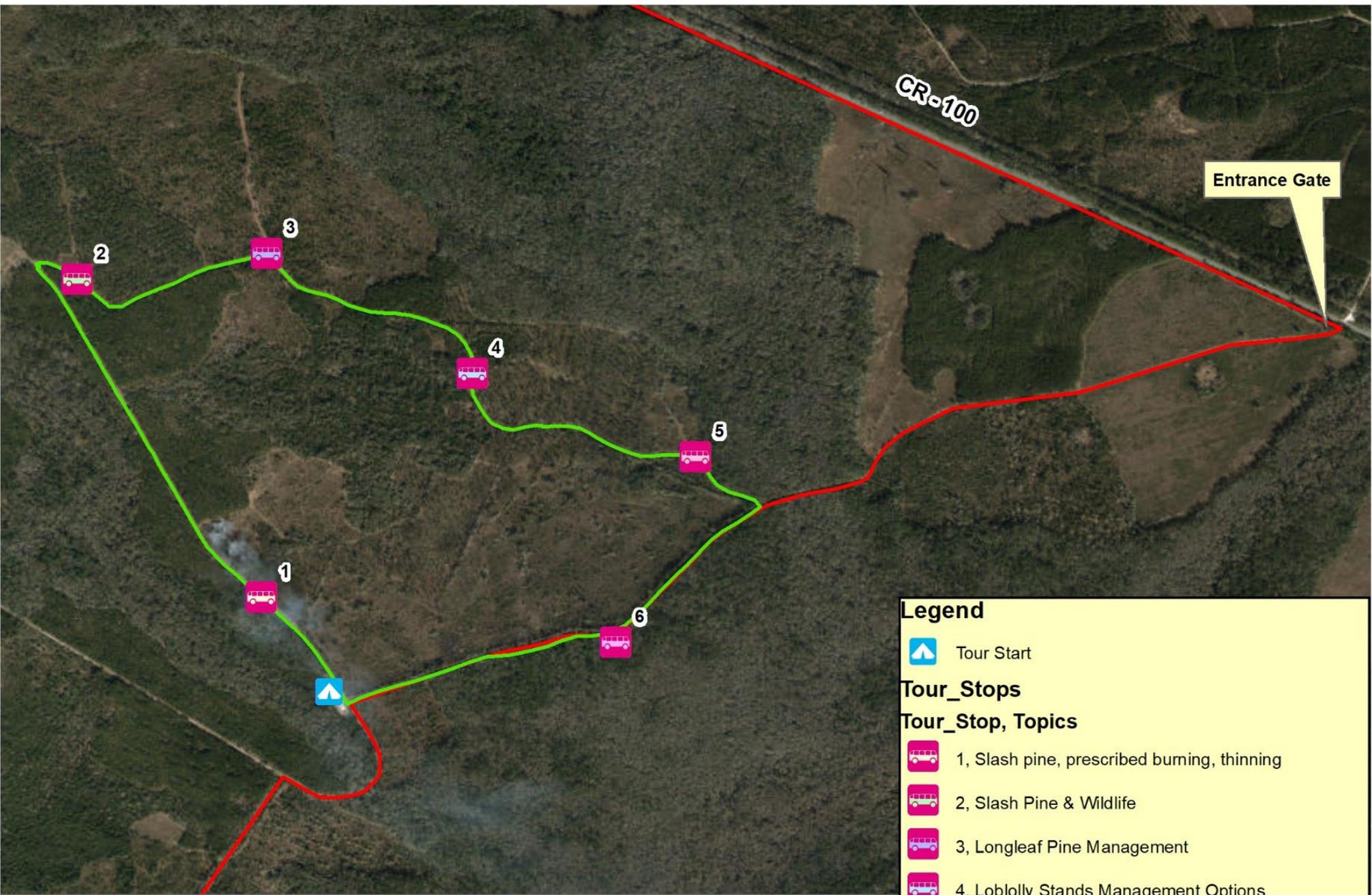
9:30 Tour of Wetland Preserve - Topics:

- Integrating timber and wildlife habitat objectives in slash pine stands
- Using prescribed fire
- Longleaf pine management
- Thinning loblolly pine to manage stand density and improve wildlife habitat
- Conservation easements
- Best Management Practices to protect water and wildlife habitat
- Mast trees: swamp chestnut oak

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 Evaluations, Adjourn

1:30 Optional Prescribed Burn Demonstration



Legend

 Tour Start

Tour_Stops

Tour_Stop, Topics

-  1, Slash pine, prescribed burning, thinning
-  2, Slash Pine & Wildlife
-  3, Longleaf Pine Management
-  4, Loblolly Stands Management Options
-  5, Conservation easement, Best Management Practices
-  6, Swamp Chestnut Oak

 Tour_Route

 Wetland Preserve - Property Boundary



**Wetland Preserve, LLC
Tree Farmer of the Year Tour
March 11, 2022**



Resource Contacts

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<p>Tony Grossman President, Florida Tree Farm Program Landowner Assistance Program Administrator Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (850) 410-5268 Anthony.Grossman@MyFWC.com</p>		<p>Ben and Louann Williams Wetland Preserve, LLC bswwiv@gmail.com louw582@gmail.com</p>

FLORIDA LAND STEWARD



A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

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2021 Jon Gould Florida Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year: Ben and Louann Williams

By Ginger Feagle, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The Florida Tree Farm Program is proud to congratulate Ben and Louann Williams of Putnam County as Florida's 2021 Jon Gould Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. Each year, one Tree Farmer (individual or family) in the state is selected who exhibits exceptional forest stewardship to protect and improve our forest resources and promotes forest stewardship within their community. Across Florida, family forest owners like Ben and Louann care for the largest portion, more than half, of Florida's forests. Their efforts are crucial to the sustainability of our country's natural resources, such as clean water and air, wildlife habitat, carbon storage and a wood supply for the products Americans use every day.

After purchasing over 3,700 acres of former industrial timberlands in 2008, the Williams quickly realized they needed to learn the techniques to manage their land and affiliated natural resources, and they also needed to become a positive voice to communicate the value of forest management. As a family coming from 35-years in the seafood business, having started out commercial fishing for their livelihood on the St. Johns River, the Williams understood how government issues, the value of clean water, and the water cycle relate to the productivity of their land. Appropriately, they named their property "Wetland Preserve" to emphasize the land's connection to nearby water resources.

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Funding for this publication is provided by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service and a grant from the Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee.

An Equal Opportunity Institution.



Ben and Louann Williams at their Wetland Preserve, LLC property in Putnam County, Florida. Photo by Elizabeth Guthrie.

Ben explains, "Today, one of the most satisfying things for us is to be able to manage the land for income while at the same time be managing it for wildlife and ultimately to be able to help protect water quality. We understand as former commercial fishermen that it is important to protect both the resources and the culture that support your livelihood."

Every management decision at Wetland Preserve aims to provide sustainable timber products while integrating wildlife habitat improvements for pollinators, gopher tortoises, deer, turkey, quail, bear, fish, and songbirds. Ben and Louann have used sound management and restoration techniques, including Silviculture Best Management Practices to thin dense slash and loblolly stands, plant longleaf pine, remove non-native plants and animals, and introduce prescribed fire. All of these practices ultimately increase timber productivity and improve wildlife habitat by allowing sunlight to stimulate native groundcover, decrease hardwood competition,

avoid water quality impacts, and maintain the ecological balance (including the important role of nuisance species such as coyotes) as part of the natural ecosystem. To be successful in these activities, the Williams refer to the guidance of their professional consultant Leonard Wood (Jowett & Wood, Inc.) and Florida Land Steward Partners such as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, St. Johns River Water Management District, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Williams stand strong in their commitment to protect Wetland Preserve for future generations by successfully pursuing and acquiring a Florida Forever Conservation Easement that allows them to continue their forestry and wildlife management practices while eliminating the incentives to develop the land. Within this agreement, the Williams have gone above and beyond normal protections by adding limitations on the potential harvest of hardwood oak hammocks and

cypress, even further protecting the wetland areas for which the property was aptly named.

Louann and Ben passionately promote the many stewardship organizations they are involved with including the Florida Forestry Association, Forest Stewardship Program, Florida Tree Farm Program, and the North Florida Prescribed Burn Association. The Williams enjoy sharing their trials and experiences with other landowners and are appreciative to those who have helped them along the way. The Williams provide nature-based education and recreational opportunities by hosting field tours, allowing hiking access via the Florida Trail, and organizing disabled veteran hunting events. Ben recently explained, "We always knew it was important, so we just continue to do the outreach - it seemed like the right thing to do. It was never like work, I don't think at any point someone left our property after taking advantage of the opportunities to come see what we

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(R) Prescribed fire is an important management practice at Wetland Preserve. Photo by Megan Ellis. (L) The gopher tortoise is one of many species benefiting from prescribed fire and other habitat management practices taking place at Wetland Preserve. Photo by Cliff Leonard, FWC.



(R) Ben and Louann are active in the leadership and activities of the North Florida Prescribed Burn Association. Photo by Ben Williams. (L) Florida Land Steward tour at Wetland Preserve in 2019.

are doing, where we felt like we've done some work. We actually felt like we've done a little bit to help the industry." It is because of their community outreach and land management ethic that they earned prior recognition as the 2019 Florida Land Steward Landowner of the Year.

On the Wetland Preserve's website (<http://benandlouann.com/>), the Williams proudly boast their property as "Conservation Compatible Forestry" and explain, "Conservation and stewardship are at the heart of how we plan for the future of Wetland Preserve and conduct daily management operations." Ben explained during the Award presentation at the recent Florida Forestry Association meeting, "We still have

friends in the commercial fishing industry, you don't think about it, but what you do supports other parts of the economy in Florida. Other people are dependent, these things are tied together. So, when we saw the Standards of the American Tree Farm System, we understood how they fit together. We are very supportive of that because it is supporting more than just trees and more than just forestry."

"The Florida Tree Farm Program commends Ben and Louann Williams for their outstanding commitment to sustainable forestry," said Tony Grossman, President of the Florida Tree Farm Program. "The Williams are great examples of Floridians who combine wood, water,

wildlife, and recreation values with working their land and sharing with others to lead the way."

The Florida Tree Farm Program greatly appreciates the positive impact that Ben and Louann Williams provide to Florida landowners as the 2021 Jon Gould Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.

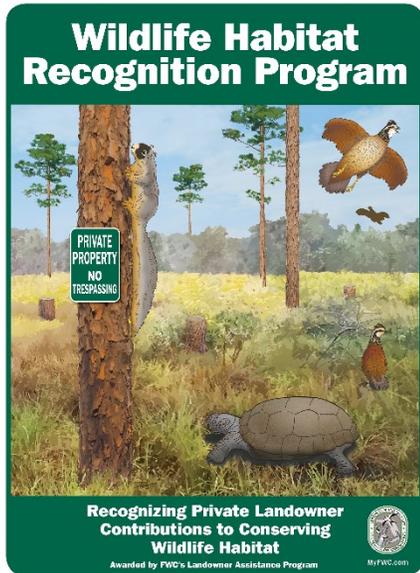
To learn more about the Williams' management, see their featured article in the Florida Land Steward Newsletter (Winter/Spring 2019 Vol 8 , Number 1), which can be accessed at https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/media/programsifasufledu/florida-land-steward/newsletter/FL_Land_Steward_8.1.pdf.



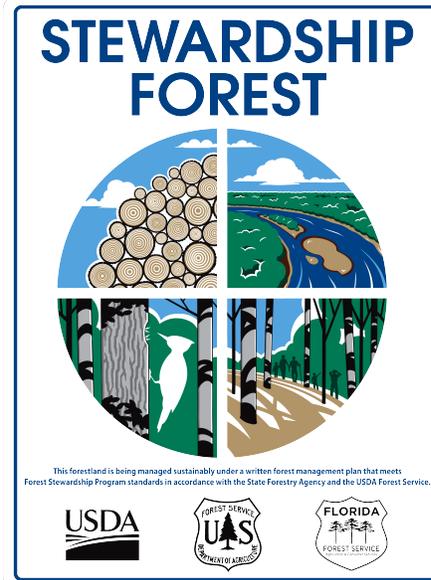
The American Tree Farm System®, a program of the American Forest Foundation, is administered locally by the Florida Tree Farm Program. The American Tree Farm System® is the largest and oldest sustainable woodland program in the United States designed specifically for family forest owners. The program provides over 69,000 family forest owners with tools, education, and a community of shared interest to support their conservation goals. Enrolled Tree Farmers, in return, care for their land, meeting rigorous Standards of Sustainability that are internationally endorsed

and recognized to assure the provision of wood supplies, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and clean water. Collectively, there are nearly 18 million forested acres within the ATFS program in the United States. The American Tree Farm System and the American Forest Foundation share a mission to deliver meaningful conservation impact through the empowerment of family forest landowners. To learn more about the Florida Tree Farm Program, visit their website <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/florida> or contact Ginger Feagle, Ginger.Feagle@MyFWC.com.

Assistance and Recognition Programs for Landowners



Private lands play a critically important role in the fate of Florida's vast wildlife resources. The efforts of private landowners to manage their land to benefit wildlife by providing food, water, shelter, and space will help ensure that future generations have the opportunity to experience and enjoy wildlife as much as, or even more than, we do today. To show appreciation for the accomplishments by landowners to conserve our state's wildlife, FWC's Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) created the **Wildlife Habitat Recognition Program**. This program honors landowners who have satisfactorily completed habitat management practices that benefit wildlife and/or their habitat by awarding them with a sign to display on their property and a certificate recognizing their habitat restoration efforts. For more information, please contact your region's FWC LAP Coordinator on the contact page.



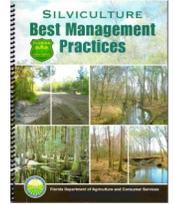
The **Forest Stewardship Program**, developed by state forestry agencies, like the Florida Forest Service, provides educational and technical assistance for private landowners. Forestry and natural resource professionals cooperate to help private forest landowners develop and implement a plan designed to increase the economic value of their forestland while maintaining its wildlife habitat value and environmental integrity for future generations. Landowners who demonstrate good forest stewardship are recognized with a Stewardship Forest sign. For more information, please contact your Florida Forest Service county forester, consultant, or FWC LAP biologist. See the contact page.



The **American Tree Farm System (ATFS)** Standards of Sustainability guide and ensure that forest benefits are enhanced and available for future generations. Landowners can enroll and be certified in the ATFS to improve access to sustainable forest product markets and educational opportunities. The Florida Tree Farm Program is a nonprofit organization and state affiliate of the ATFS that promotes sustainable forest management and educational outreach to private forest landowners. For more information, please contact your Florida Forest Service county forester, consultant, or FWC LAP biologist. See the contact page.



Florida Forest Service Silviculture Best Management Practices



SILVICULTURE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Silviculture BMPs are the minimum standards necessary to protect our state's waterbodies and wetlands from the degradation and sedimentation that can sometimes occur because of erosion during and immediately following recent forestry operations. Silviculture BMPs should be applied on all bonafide ongoing forestry operations, especially those adjacent to waterbodies and wetlands, and may be enforced by federal, state, and local authorities through reference of regulatory statute or rule.

SILVICULTURE BMP COURTESY CHECKS

Silviculture BMP courtesy checks are available to give landowners, land managers, and loggers a "report card" on Silviculture BMP implementation for recent or ongoing forestry operations. This helps with future management planning as well as evaluating the performance of contractors on your property.

SILVICULTURE BMP SITE ASSESSMENTS

On-the-ground Silviculture BMP site assessments are available to discuss which Silviculture BMPs will apply to planned operations on a specific site. This helps with harvest plan development, road layout, mitigation of existing problem areas, etc.

SILVICULTURE BMP NOTICE OF INTENT

The Silviculture BMP Notice of Intent (Rule 5I-6 F.A.C.) is a voluntary one-time pledge that a landowner signs to indicate his or her intention to follow Silviculture BMPs on their property. Once a landowner has signed the Notice of Intent, he or she will become eligible to receive a *presumption of compliance* with state water quality standards during future bonafide ongoing forestry operations. This is very important if the landowner's property falls within an area covered by a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Basin Management Action Plan for impaired waters.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

For information on the services listed above or any other services provided by the Florida Forest Service's Hydrology Section please contact your local BMP Forester or visit www.fdacs.gov/bmps.

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Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Forestry Wildlife Best Management Practices



- Forestry Wildlife Best Management Practices for State Imperiled Species (WBMPs) were adopted into Florida Administrative Code (Rule 5I-8) on October 21, 2014.
- WBMPs were developed through a partnership between the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Florida Forest Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).
- WBMPs are **voluntary** practices designed as a practical approach for avoiding and minimizing the loss of **State Imperiled Species** due to silviculture operations.
- WBMP practices address the 16 State Imperiled Species which are considered to be potentially vulnerable to silviculture operations including ten aquatic species, two burrowing animals, and four nesting birds.
- WBMPs are designed to supplement the existing water quality-based Silviculture BMPs which already provide many valuable benefits to the conservation and management of fish and wildlife in Florida.
- Landowners and other forestry resource professionals can enroll in the voluntary program by completing a WBMP Notice of Intent. Those who do not wish to enroll will continue to be subject to all current laws and regulations regarding State Imperiled Species.
- Once enrolled, applicants who **properly implement** WBMPs will no longer be required to obtain a permit authorizing the incidental take of State Imperiled Species during bonafide ongoing forestry operations. In addition, they will not be subject to any fines or penalties associated with an incidental take of the State Imperiled Species covered by the WBMP Manual.
- WBMPs are not designed to facilitate wildlife habitat restoration or species recovery and expansion. Also, they do not address any Federally Listed Species. For information on Federally Listed Species, refer to FWC's online "Florida Wildlife Conservation Guide."
- To obtain more information or a copy of the WBMP Manual and Notice of Intent, contact your local Florida Forest Service BMP Forester or visit www.fdacs.gov/bmps.

Florida Forest Service BMP Foresters

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Got Invasives? Get Assistance.

**Invasive species problem?
Find assistance at FloridaInvasives.org.**

Have an invasive species problem on your property? Use FloridaInvasives.org to find private land owner assistance programs and connect with your local Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA).

FloridaInvasives.org is hosted by the Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP) with the goal of connecting landowners with information and resources to help in their fight against problematic species. This resource takes the guesswork out of finding the agencies or organizations offering assistance and will direct you to available programs.

Why was FloridaInvasives.org developed?

Public and private land managers have identified the high ecological and economic cost of invasive species as a statewide problem in Florida. FISP is a collaboration of federal, state, and local agencies, along with nongovernment organizations, formed to link efforts at preventing and controlling infestations of invasive species across agency and property boundaries. FISP has developed and maintains an online Landowner Assistance page of available programs to make it easier for landowners and land managers to find them.

How does FloridaInvasives.org help you?

Each year, multiple agencies and organizations provide cost-share programs, grants, and/or technical assistance to help landowners and land managers with various agriculture or natural resource management practices. Invasive species management is an important practice covered within many of these programs.

[The Landowner Assistance page](http://FloridaInvasives.org) at FloridaInvasives.org provides the information to connect you directly with available assistance programs all in one location for your convenience.

FloridaInvasives.org also serves to connect you with your regional CISMA, a local network of agency, non-profit, and private land managers actively working on invasive species issues. CISMAs address prevention, early detection and rapid response, monitoring, management, and education and awareness on the local level and are a great resource for information and technical assistance.

Go to FloridaInvasives.org to find out more.

Species Shown from top to bottom:
Mexican Petunia, mimosa, Boston Fern, cogongrass, camphor



Type here!



Think Locally, Act Neighborly
invasive species know no boundaries!

5

Steps to Assistance

How to Get Assistance from NRCS for Farms, Ranches and Forests

1 PLANNING

Visit your local NRCS field office to discuss your goals and work with staff on a conservation plan.

2 APPLICATION

With the help of NRCS, complete an application for financial assistance programs.

3 ELIGIBILITY

Find out if you're eligible for NRCS' variety of financial assistance programs.

4 RANKING

NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.

5 IMPLEMENTING

Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.

Get Started with NRCS

Do you farm or ranch and want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease?

Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners.

1 Planning

To get started with NRCS, we recommend you stop by your local NRCS field office.

We'll discuss your vision for your land.

NRCS provides landowners with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land. Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring. Your conservation planner will help you determine if financial assistance is right for you.

2 Application

We'll walk you through the application process. To get started on applying for financial assistance, we'll work with you:

- To fill out an AD 1026, which ensures a conservation plan is in place before lands with highly erodible soils are farmed. It also ensures that identified wetland areas are protected.
- To meet other eligibility certifications.

Once complete, we'll work with you on the application, or CPA 1200.

Applications for most programs are accepted on a continuous basis, but they're considered for funding in different ranking periods. Be sure to ask your local NRCS district conservationist about the deadline for the ranking period to ensure you turn in your application in time.

3 Eligibility

As part of the application process, we'll check to see if you are eligible.

To do this, you'll need to bring:

- An official tax ID (Social Security number or an employer ID)
- A property deed or lease agreement to show you have control of the property; and
- A farm tract number.

If you don't have a farm tract number, you can get one from USDA's Farm Service Agency. Typically, the local FSA office is located in the same building as the local NRCS office. You only need a farm tract number if you're interested in financial assistance.

4 Ranking

NRCS will take a look at the applications and rank them according to local resource

concerns, the amount of conservation benefits the work will provide and the needs of applicants.

5 Implementing

If you're selected, you can choose whether to sign the contract for the work to be done.

Once you sign the contract, you'll be provided standards and specifications for completing the practice or practices, and then you will have a specified amount of time to implement. Once the work is implemented and inspected, you'll be paid the rate of compensation for the work if it meets NRCS standards and specifications.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

To find out more, go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted

Enhancing Habitat for Wildlife

Southern forests and ranges have the potential to provide productive wildlife habitat for a variety of species. Landowners interested in promoting wildlife must recognize that each wildlife species requires a specific set of habitat conditions. Animals will frequent your property depending on the condition, type, and variety of food and cover that are present.

Timber, livestock, and crop production objectives can be compatible with enhancement of wildlife habitat and diversity. However, some tradeoffs may be necessary because strategies that maximize commodity outputs are typically not the same as strategies that will provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. For this reason, it is important to prioritize your objectives and decide where wildlife ranks relative to the commodities you produce in your land use planning.

Ten Tips for Increasing Wildlife Biodiversity in Your Pine Plantations:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw319>

Ten Tips for Encouraging the Use of Your Pine Plantations by Game Species:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw318>

The Importance of Bottomland Hardwood Forests for Wildlife:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw316>

Establishing and Maintaining Wildlife Food Sources:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr062>

Making the Most of Your Mast: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr036>

Managing Oaks to Produce Food for Wildlife: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw293>

Providing Wildlife Cover: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr124>

Longleaf Pine

Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) has many favorable characteristics for landowners who have long-term, multiple-use resource management objectives. Of all the southern pine species, longleaf pine is the most adapted to fire and has the greatest longevity. When burned regularly, longleaf pine forests develop a stable grass savannah ecosystem, providing ideal habitat for a diverse array of plants and animals.

Longleaf pine is a pioneer species on a variety of sites but is intolerant of competition and flooding during its grass stage, when it appears like a clump of grass. Historically, fire and moisture have been the principal factors controlling longleaf distribution within its natural range. In the lower Coastal Plain longleaf grows on sandy, well-drained to excessively well-drained soils where loblolly or slash pine perform more poorly. **Prescribed fire** is an important part of longleaf pine management. Fire reduces competing vegetation, exposing the bare soil necessary for successful seedling establishment. In the historic fire-dominated longleaf pine grass savannah ecosystem, relatively stable plant communities are characterized by an overstory of uneven-aged, widely spaced longleaf pines and fire-tolerant oaks such as bluejack oak (*Quercus incana*) and turkey oak (*Quercus laevis*) and a predominate ground cover of bunch grasses such as wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*) and bluestems (*Andropogon* spp.) which facilitate ignition and spread of periodic fires (Landers 1991).

More on Longleaf Pine Regeneration: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr064>

Opportunities for Uneven-Aged Management in Second Growth Longleaf Pine Stands in Florida: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr132>

Thinning Southern Pines

Many landowners plant pines with the intention of harvesting them at some point in the future. When pulpwood markets are favorable, a complete stand harvest within 15 to 20 years is possible and may bring an acceptable return. However, longer rotations can bring higher financial returns on larger diameter trees if landowners are willing to begin thinning their pine stands when trees are 10 to 15 years old. Pine sawtimber, poles, and/or plylogs are most often the forest products with the highest value and, if economic returns are a priority, the most desirable products to come out of a timber stand. Thinning is a partial tree harvest in an immature stand to maintain or accelerate diameter growth of the remaining trees. If it is done properly, thinning can bring substantially higher revenues when trees are harvested at 25 to 40 or more years of age. Trees will respond to thinning best if they are thinned before 16 or 17 years of age.

The increased diameter growth after thinning results from the greater availability of light, water, and nutrients to the remaining trees. Ideally, the best and biggest trees should be retained to assure the most rapid increase in timber value. For best results, thinning should favor the tallest, best-formed trees over those that are overtopped, crooked, forked, diseased or otherwise undesirable. Timberland owners who wish to harvest high-value sawtimber-, plylog-, or pole-sized products at the end of the rotation should consider thinning a necessity.

For the landowner, thinning can bring

1. increased return on investment from the sale of higher-value forest products;
2. periodic income from the multiple harvests that lead to those higher-value forest products;
3. improved access for equipment, people, and wildlife;
4. a healthy, vigorous forest with less risk of insect infestation, destructive fire, and wind damage; and
5. enhanced wildlife habitat with increased herbaceous ground cover

More on thinning: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr159>

Marking First Thinnings in Pine Plantations: Potential for Increased Economic Returns: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr410>

Conservation Easements

Conservation easements are cost-effective means for government agencies or non-government conservation organizations to protect land. Instead of purchasing land outright, these agreements allow organizations to purchase the development rights of a property, thereby protecting the target resources and saving money. Conservation easements may be a viable option for landowners wanting to prevent future residential and commercial development of their land, and those who want to reduce their heirs' inheritance tax liability. They often work best for landowners who have a strong connection to their land and want to ensure its protection for many generations. Landowners are encouraged to enter such agreements carefully because they require several rights to be conveyed to the easement grantee and the duration of these agreements is typically perpetual. The publication linked below describes conservation easements, what is involved in establishing one, some of the tax implications of such agreements, the government and non-government organizations that commonly participate in conservation easements, and important considerations for landowners before entering into such an agreement.

More about Conservation Easements: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr149>

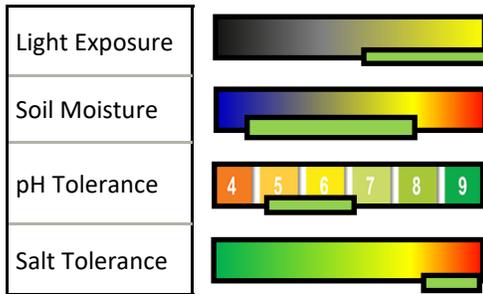
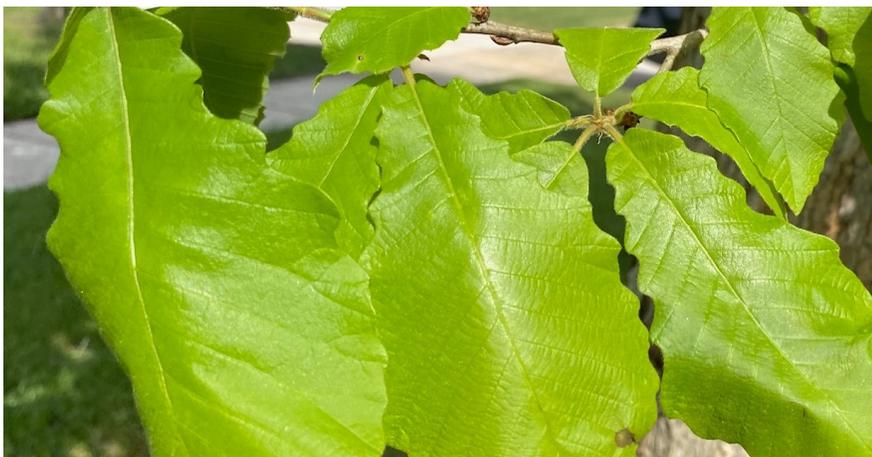


Photo: uky.edu.hort

Swamp Chestnut Oak is a native tree to Florida that could be planted more in the urban environment. Swamp Chestnut Oak can tolerate a wide variety of sites. It can withstand saturated soils for a short period and it can tolerate droughty sites as well. Once it becomes established it needs little or no irrigation. Swamp Chestnut Oak should be grown in full sun. It should also be grown in spaces that have plenty of room above and below.

The leaves are deciduous and vary from 4-8 inches in length. They are oval shaped with dentate (tooth like) lobes. The leaves turn a crimson red in the fall when the conditions are right. The bark is attractive as well. It is fairly flakey. Somewhat similar to pecan bark. It is gray with tinges of red within the flakey bark. The large acorns are very good for wildlife and the wood is good for lumber. The Florida Champion Swamp Chestnut Oak is in Columbia County and measures 143 feet tall, 45.5" diameter, and a crown spread of 122 feet.

Growth Form	Large Tree
Growth Rate	Moderate
Potential Size	Height: 60-90 ft. Spread: 30-50 ft.
Leaves	Simple, Obovate 4-8" L x 3-5" W Alternate Dentate (toothed) Margins Upper surface Dark Green Lower surface dull and fuzzy
Bark	Thick, light gray, shaggy
Flowers	Inconspicuous
Fruit	Large acorn 1.5 " long



Additional Reading:

Trees of N. and Cent. Florida
<http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu>
Swamp Chestnut Oak:
<https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/Pages/quemic/quemic.shtml>

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