

FLORIDA LAND STEWARD



A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

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Florida Land Steward Partnership

By Emma Willcox and Chris Demers

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Florida Land Steward Newsletter, formerly The Florida Forest Steward Newsletter. This publication is part of a renewed effort to reach Florida's private landowners with important information related to land ownership and management.

Private lands in Florida provide a wide variety of services that benefit landowners and society, including recreational opportunities, economic activity, clean air, groundwater recharge, fish and wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, water filtration, and improved quality of life. The owners, or stewards, of these lands have diverse goals and objectives for their properties, which frequently include some combination of agriculture, forestry, and wildlife habitat management and conservation.

The Florida Forest Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, and University of Florida Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and School of Forest Resources and Conservation, along with a variety of other agencies and organizations, have been supporting the management and conservation efforts of private landowners for many years. These agencies and organizations provide support to landowners managing natural resources by providing technical and financial assistance, developing resource management and conservation plans, and disseminating information through newsletters, websites, field days, and other means. In order to more successfully deliver

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consistent and effective information and better cater to the diversity of land ownerships and management objectives across the state, these natural resource agencies and organizations are working together on a new initiative, the Florida Land Steward Partnership. Partner agencies and organizations are collaborating more closely to develop and provide information and technical assistance that helps enhance the natural resource management capabilities of landowners. This includes the production and statewide distribution of

this quarterly newsletter and a yearly calendar. Program partners are also working closely together to coordinate workshops, field days, and other trainings. In addition, a Florida Land Steward website has been developed that serves as a centralized source of information on land and natural resource management.

You will find that, although the title and look of this publication have changed, the content is similar to that of the Florida Forest Steward. We will con-

tinue to include the mainstays you expect such as the quarterly timber price update, events calendar and certified Forest Steward and Tree Farmer recognition. We will also include some new kinds of information. This issue begins a new regular column discussing invasive exotic plants and their control.

You can learn more about the Florida Land Steward Partnership and our collective resources for landowners and resource professionals on the Florida Land Steward website at <http://www.flsteward.org/>.

Congratulations Barbara and Terry Glancy: Florida Land Steward Landowners of 2012

By Gail Hendricks and Emma Willcox

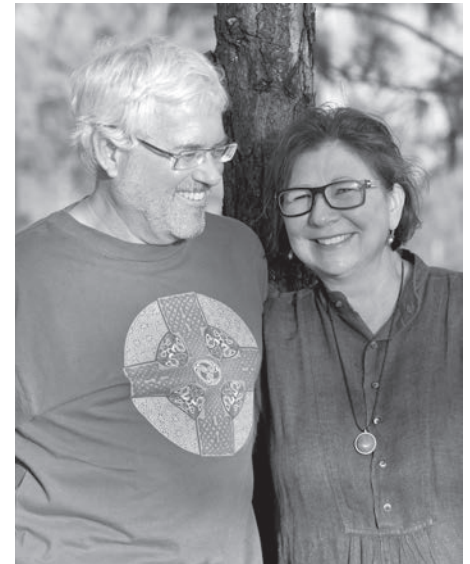
We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Terry and Barbara Glancy of Miami-Dade County on being selected as the 2012 Florida Land Steward Landowners of the Year. They own 15 acres of Pine Rockland habitat known as the Pine Ridge Sanctuary and are also owners of Pine Ridge Orchids. The Glancys feel strongly about conserving Florida lands for future generations.

Miami-Dade Pine Rockland is one of the most endangered ecosystems worldwide. Pine Rocklands grow on the coastal Miami Rock Ridge, a limestone rock outcropping that extends south and west from North Miami

Beach to Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park. Only 1% of the original 192,000 acres still exists today as fragmented isolated islands. Over 225 types of native plants grow there and more than 20% of these plant species are found nowhere else in the world. Five are federally listed as threatened or endangered.

Terry and Barbara Glancy purchased their 15 acres of degraded pineland in 1976 and started to remove exotic plants, such as Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and Australian pine (*Casuarina* species), using hypohatchet and basal spray herbicide, along with spray applications for invasive exotic Burma reed (*Neyraudia reynaudiana*) and Natal grass (*Melinis repens*). The Glancys reintroduced prescribed burning practices to the property in 1979.

The Pine Ridge Sanctuary was one of the first properties to be entered into a conservation easement with Miami-Dade County through the Environmentally Endangered Land Program. In 1989, Pine Ridge Sanctuary became a registered property with the Nature Conservancy and in 1991 became the first Forest Stewardship



Property south of Lake Okeechobee.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew and an ensuing Ips bark beetle infestation killed all but one of the 3,500 125 year old South Florida Slash Pines (*Pinus elliotii* var. *densa*) on the sanctuary. After the Ips beetle populations crashed, Terry and Barbara Glancy replanted using pine tublings from Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park. The Glancy's have taken advantage of Farm Bill cost share programs since 1996 as one of many ways to assist them in restoring their pine rocklands.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), managed through the United States Depart-



ment of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, as well as the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program run by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, have been utilized on the Pine Ridge Sanctuary. Cost-share money from these programs has helped to control invasive exotic plant species, erect bird roosting platforms and bat houses, and purchase and plant pine tubelings, as well as helping to offset the cost of prescribed burning.

"What sets the Glancys apart from other landowners is their level of devotion to the Pine Rocklands," said Christine Coffin, the Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist in Miami-Dade County. "Their commitment to pre-

servicing this rare ecosystem is undeniable by their pursuance of designated land use limitations at the county level to try to ensure that when they are no longer stewards of the ecosystem it will be preserved" she continued.

The Glancy's efforts have been rewarded not only by the restoration of the pine rockland habitat, but also by the wildlife that has found a refuge there from highly developed Miami-Dade County. Their Pine Rockland has become habitat for hundreds of plant and animal species, including endemic, threatened, and endangered species.

Visit the Glancy's website at <http://www.PineRidgeOrchids.com>.

2012 National Tree Farmer Convention in Jacksonville

By Phil Gornicki, Florida Forestry Association

Florida will host the National Tree Farmer Convention in beautiful Jacksonville, Florida on Thursday, June 14 to Saturday, June 16, 2012! The National Tree Farmer Convention is an annual event that brings together families, friends, Tree Farmers, foresters, and natural resource professionals from across the country. For three days participants will gather for hands-on activities and a visit to a local Certified Tree Farm. The convention provides an excellent opportunity to network, attend educational sessions, and of course have lots of FUN!

The 2012 National Tree Farmer Convention will be held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel. Take advantage of the special rates and book your hotel room at www.treefarmssystem.org. Or, you can make your reservation by calling 1-800-233-1234 (toll free) or 904-588-1234 (local) to speak to a Hyatt representative. Be sure to mention the convention code «2012 National Tree Farmer Convention» when making your reservation.

Information on rates, optional tours, field day, and agenda will be posted soon, so be sure to check www.treefarmssystem.org for convention updates!

Plants Behaving Badly: Japanese and Old World Climbing Ferns

By Alicia Campanella and Chris Demers

Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*) and Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*) are vine-like plants native to Africa, Asia, the South Pacific, and other regions. In their native regions, natural checks and balances such as disease, pests, climate, and natural competitors keep these plants from becoming invasive. In Florida though, these plants have no natural control, and conditions for their growth and spread are ideal. While Japanese climbing fern is common in regions of Northeast and Northwest Florida, Old World climbing fern is found in Central and South Florida.

Lygodium seems most likely to invade areas that occur just between wetlands and upland habitats but can thrive in many habitats. Once established, it grows rapidly upward, wrapping itself around trees, shading out its hosts as well as plant life beneath. In this way, they can rapidly out-compete native plants. Reproducing via tiny spores, these plants are spread by wind and can be easily transported by people and animals that walk through an infestation. Their rapid upward growth makes them dangerous ladder fuels, carrying fire high into the canopy, making use of prescribed fire difficult in infested areas.

Early detection is critical. Once Lygodium is established, it is very difficult to remove. Herbicides are the best option. To treat, cut the vine about a foot above the ground and spray the entire



Above:
Old World
Climbing Fern.

Left: Japanese
Climbing Fern.

lower section of the plant with triclopyr, glyphosate, imazapyr or metsulfuron methyl herbicide products. Garlon, Round-Up, Arsenal and Escort are examples, respectively, but generic brands of some of these are available. As always, use these chemicals according to the label and wear protective gear. When the vine is cut, don't try to remove any of the plant, leave it where it is or you'll risk spreading the spores.

If you have identified Lygodium on your property, you can treat it yourself or, especially if you have a large infestation, hire a licensed contractor, skilled in the removal of exotic plants. For more information about these and other invasive exotic plants and how to manage them, and to find resources for assistance see <http://www.floridainvasives.org/>.

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Reforestation Challenges, Part 2: A Personal Experience

By Jon Gould, Florida Tree Farmer

In the last edition of the Florida Forest Steward newsletter Chris Demers and I wrote about the challenges of reforestation. In this first edition of the Florida Land Steward, I want to share my personal experience reforesting a clearcut tract where mistakes were made in the reforestation process discussed in the earlier article. This case history demonstrates the importance of completing each reforestation step on schedule and how a misstep can create serious issues throughout the remaining steps – resulting in lasting damage during the lifetime of the reforested tract.

A 75-acre pine stand was clearcut in December 2005. Most of the tract contained mature planted loblolly and slash pines that had been over-thinned several years before. There were also some areas of mature natural loblolly and longleaf pines around the perimeter that were clearcut. A large portion of the site is marginally low and frequently wet.

Invasive exotic plants have been a problem in this stand. Cogongrass and Japanese climbing fern occupied portions of the site. Because of these well established invasive species and the easily disturbed surface soils, it was decided that an aerial herbicide site preparation would be conducted to minimize soil disturbance and kill back the invasive species, allowing the pine seedlings to get established and grow above any recurring cogongrass and climbing fern. The herbicide was applied by helicopter in late September 2006. There was a very good kill of all site vegetation, including the invasive species.

The plan was to burn the site in late 2006 or early 2007, but an experienced burner that would do the work in that time frame could not be located. Bareroot slash pine seedlings to replant the site had been ordered in early 2006, so I was committed to plant by the end of March 2007. It was decided



Cogongrass infestation. Photo by Jon Gould.

that the site was too rough to machine plant, even though I have since learned that it could have been planted using the right equipment, so an experienced crew was hired to hand plant the seedlings. Because the site contained a lot of large dead debris, there were a number of areas that seedlings were not planted. Delays in getting the site burned resulted in planting at the very end of the season. It was already very dry when the seedlings were planted, and a drought lasting over two months followed. The resulting survival rate was less than 10%, probably closer to 5%, even in the low areas where soils were usually moist. By the end of the summer it became obvious that survival was so low that replanting would be required.

Fortunately, I was able to get the Florida Forest Service to burn the site in October 2007. The burn was good in some areas and spotty in others because of low fuel. In March 2008, 55 acres were machine planted in bareroot loblolly pine seedlings and

the remaining 20 acres in container longleaf. The replanting was delayed until March because of flooding in January and February, and some of the loblolly planting was actually done in a few inches of water. The reason for switching to loblolly and longleaf seedlings during replanting, instead of slash pines again, was twofold. We decided to re-establish longleaf in a relatively dry sandy area that originally was covered with primarily longleaf. It was also determined that loblolly pines might better survive the extreme variations in the soil moisture conditions between periodic droughts and flooding on the remainder of the site. The machine planting did knock back a lot of the competition, and there was generally good survival of the seedlings through 2008.

During spring and summer 2009 most of the seedlings grew well; however, so did the competition which was by now rebounding well from the aerial herbicide treatment in 2007. The cogongrass and climbing fern were growing

very well and spreading. The loblolly seedlings grew enough to get above the invasive species and most other competition, but most of the longleaf were overtopped by the competition. In the dense areas of cogongrass and climbing fern most of the longleaf, still in the grass stage, did not survive.

Heavy flooding during the winter of 2010 killed the longleaf in the lower areas and some of the loblolly in the lowest areas where the water stood for several weeks. Because much of the surrounding land stayed flooded so long, wild hogs moved onto the higher ground planted with young longleaf and proceeded to root up numerous patches of ground in search of subsoil invertebrates. In the process they uprooted most of the longleaf and some of the loblolly pines in the rooted areas. Even though the hogs may have eaten some of the smaller young pine roots, I think that most of the damage was due to their search for invertebrates.

Spring and summer 2010 were good growing seasons for the young pines

and the herbaceous competition. During winter 2011 all vegetation was mowed in strips down both sides of the rows of several acres of the longleaf to give them some relief from the competition. This seemed to help the longleaf still in and just coming out of the grass stage. By the fall of 2011 many of the longleaf had grown enough in height that they were above much of the competition. Most of the loblolly have grown well above the competition. The scattered original slash pines planted in 2007 that survived the drought, site preparation burn, machine planting, and flooding are now towering well above surrounding vegetation and actually shading some of the young pines.

Well, by now I guess you can see how mistakes made early on during the process of reforestation can impact the survival and growth of the trees planted. Major mistakes included the following:

1. Site prep burn not accomplished in the fall/winter after the herbicide site preparation treatment.

2. Late original planting followed by drought killed most slash seedlings.

3. Site prep burn was not as effective because of low fuel.

4. Replanting was a large extra cost and resulted in a lost year of growth.

5. Lost time before successful planting allowed herbicide treated competition to become re-established and kill many of the young pines, especially the longleaf.

Of course, there is no way to control the weather, but there are acceptable guidelines to follow for typical weather patterns that can minimize the effects of severe weather and unexpected changes in the weather. It is critical to develop a good plan for reforestation and try to stay on schedule, completing each step in the right sequence and within the scheduled time for each step. If you do this, most unexpected changes in the weather will have minimal effects on the final outcome of the reforestation.

What Are They Really Eating?

Bill Giuliano, Lauren Watine, John Olson, and Jim Selph

Over the next 3 years (2012-2014), the University of Florida will be conducting a study of coyote and bobcat diets in Florida. Of particular interest is the importance of popular wildlife species, including white-tailed deer, turkeys, and bobwhite quail, livestock, and pets in the diet of these predators. Diets will be determined by examining the stomach contents of coyotes and bobcats legally harvested or obtained in Florida.

We are asking for your help in obtaining legally acquired coyote and bobcat carcasses, with or without pelts. While we are interested in animals collected year-round, we are particularly interested in animals obtained during June-September. If you have at least 5 animals that you would like to provide us, you can contact Bill Giuliano at the University of Florida to arrange for pickup (352-846-0575; docg@ufl.edu).

If you have fewer than 5 animals or are going to be coming through Gainesville, arrangements can be made to get carcasses from you at the University or combine your animals with others in your area for a pickup. Carcasses should be frozen in a suitable bag or container, and include the name



of contributor, date harvested/obtained, and location harvested/obtained (at least to the county level). We have obtained a permit from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for this project, and will keep information provided by you for this project anonymous to the extent possible by law.

We greatly appreciate your help with this valuable study!

TIMBER PRICE UPDATE

The timber pricing information below is useful for observing trends over time, but does not necessarily reflect current conditions at a particular location. Landowners considering a timber sale are advised to solicit the services of a consulting forester to obtain current local market conditions.

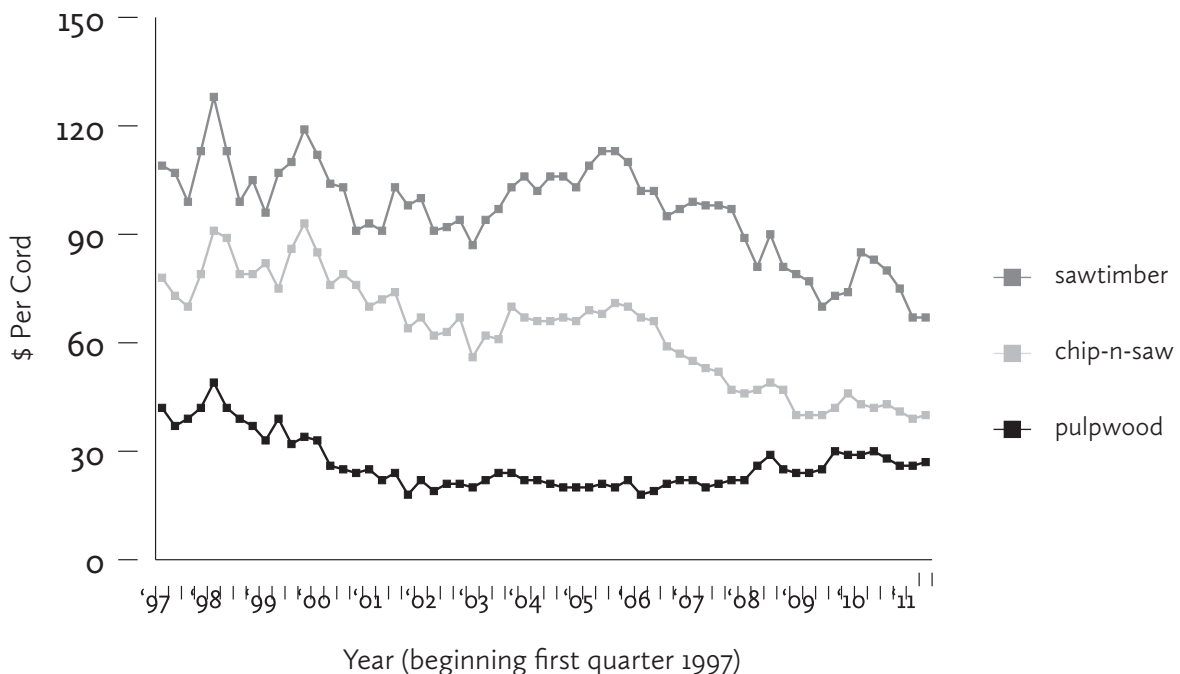
Florida stumpage price ranges reported in the 4th Quarter 2011 Timber Mart-South (TMS) report were:

Florida Stumpage Prices	
Pine pulpwood:	\$17 – \$34/cord (\$6 – \$13/ton), ↑ from 3 rd Qtr 2011
Pine C-N-S:	\$25 – \$49/cord (\$9 – \$18/ton), ↑
Pine sawtimber:	\$55 – \$79/cord (\$20 – \$30/ton), same
Pine plylogs:	\$63 – \$86/cord (\$23 – \$32/ton), ↑
Pine power poles:	\$131 – \$164/cord (\$49 – \$61/ton), ↑
Hardwood pulpwood:	\$10 – \$25/cord (\$3 – \$8/ton), ↓

Trend Report

For the first time in several quarters average stumpage prices for most products in Florida increased, if only slightly. Despite that spark of good news, prices do remain weak here and across the Southeast region. Dry weather has kept supplies up and solid wood markets that serve residential construction are still down. In many cases, stumpage prices for pine sawtimber have converged with those of hardwood sawtimber. All accounted for, little has changed compared to last quarter.

Average Pine Stumpage Prices for Florida
1st Qtr 1997 through 4th Qtr 2011



CONGRATULATIONS CERTIFIED FOREST STEWARDS AND TREE FARMERS

For more information about becoming a Certified Forest Steward or Tree Farmer, call your County Forester or learn about it at:

http://www.fl-dof.com/forest_management/cfa_steward_index.html

or

http://www.floridaforest.org/tree_farm.php

These landowners have a current Forest Stewardship and/or Tree Farm management plan for their property and have demonstrated excellent stewardship of their land resources.



Heidi & Ray Samec, Forest Stewards, Levy County



Monique & William "Bill" Kerstein, Suwannee County



Forest Stewards June & Bill Vance (R), with Greg Barton, Florida Forest Service, Marion County



John & Elizabeth Alter, Forest Stewards, Jackson County

Upcoming Stewardship, Small Farm and Other Events

Date	Event, Location, Contact
February 16	Longleaf, Loblolly, and Slash: A Comparison of Southern Pines Workshop , 9 am - 3 pm, Leon County Extension Office, 615 Paul Russell Rd. Tallahassee, FL. To pre-register contact (850) 606-5202 or e-mail Genice Harris at Harrisg@leoncountyfl.gov, Cost: \$5.00
February 17	Forest Stewardship Tour at the McGranahan Tract, Property of Bob and Frances McGranahan , 9 am – 1 pm, ET. Located in McAlpin, FL. Cost is \$10 per person, lunch and materials included. Details and registration at: http://fsp-tour021712.eventbrite.com/ or call Diane at Suwannee County Extension at (386) 362-2771
February 22	Forestry Webinar: Timber Tax Basis , 12 - 1:30 pm ET, see link for more information and to join webinar http://www.forestrywebinars.net/webinars/timber-tax-update-for-2011-tax-filing-season
February 25	Longleaf Pine Workshop , 9:30 am – 3:30 pm, Union County Public Library, 250 SE 5th Ave, Lake Butler, FL. Free- To register, contact Jay.Tucker@freshfromflorida.com, (386) 496-2190; Nicole.Howard@freshfromflorida.com, (904) 964-2461; Andy.Lamborn@freshfromflorida.com, (904) 259-5128.
February 28-29	Prescribed Fire Techniques for Wildlife: a Training for Private Landowners , UF-IFAS Leon County Extension Office, 615 Paul Russell Road, Tallahassee, FL 32301. Registration \$45, deadline for registration February 20, 2012. Training Participants Qualify for Certified Prescribed Burn Manager CEUs. To view training schedule or to register go to http://www.fltw.org . For more information contact Emma Willcox at (352) 486-5131 or ewillcox@ufl.edu
March 2	Forest Stewardship Food Plot Field Day , 9 am - 3 pm ET. Blich Plantation, property of John & Shirley Rudnianyn, Reddick, FL. Details and registration online: http://fsp-workshop030212.eventbrite.com/ or call (352) 671-8400.
March 15	Forest Stewardship Workshop: Grow Timber Revenue , 9 am - 3 pm CT, UF-IFAS Washington County Extension Office, 1424 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, FL 32428. \$10 fee. Details and registration online: http://fsp-workshop031512.eventbrite.com/ or call Washington County Extension at (850) 638-6180
April 5	Forest Stewardship Workshop: Grow Timber Revenue , 9 am - 3 pm ET, UF-IFAS Madison County Extension Office, 184 College Loop, Madison, FL 32340. \$10 fee Details and registration online: http://fsp-workshop040512.eventbrite.com/ or call Madison County Extension at (850) 973-4138
April 26	Forest Stewardship Workshop: Grow Timber Revenue , 9 am - 3 pm ET, UF-IFAS Marion County Extension Office, 2232 NE Jacksonville Rd, Ocala, FL 34470. \$10 fee. Details and registration online: http://fsp-workshop042612.eventbrite.com/ or contact Chris Demers at cdemers@ufl.edu, (352) 846-2375

For many more events and information see: flsteward.org

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