

FLORIDA LAND STEWARD



A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

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Congratulations Woodward Family: Florida's 2014 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year

By Roy Lima, Florida Forest Service, Florida Tree Farm Committee Chair

The Woodward family was fortunate to grow up in the country on the farm. As Julia Woodward Gregory explains, "Our parents taught us the value of working, helping out and taking care of the land. Daddy wanted to see us work together to keep this farm special and in the family, so he gave it to his six children in 1978." The Woodward Family Tree Farm, better known as the Family Farm Partnership, celebrated 100 years of ownership in 2014 and is currently managed by Bob Woodward and his brother Pat, a retired pediatric physician. Michael Dooner, a professional forester and President of Southern Forestry Consultants, Inc. provides natural resource management services for the Woodward family partnership.

The Woodward Family Tree Farm, inspected and certified by Michael Dooner on September 20, 2013, consists of 1,425 acres of pine and hardwood areas with a multiple use objective. Well managed natural stands of old growth longleaf pine as well as planted longleaf and loblolly pine cover the majority of the property. Picturesque hardwood drains bisect these pine areas and add diversity to the landscape. Wildlife and recreation are paramount and have been the primary objectives in the written forest management plan for over 30 years. In addition to recommendations from Southern Forestry Consultants, Bob and Pat Woodward were very much involved in the establishment of pine stands, and forest road and fireline maintenance.

Thinning has been used to improve tree growth and quality, as well as wildlife habitat. Prescribed burning on a three-year rotation has also been important for controlling hazardous fuels and improving wildlife habitat. Herbicide application to control encroachment of invasive species has proven effective throughout the forest property. The Woodwards' attention to detail is noticeable everywhere. For example, to combat erosion, even the firelines have water bars and turnouts in areas where there are steep slopes and in close proximity to waterbodies. Their commitment to long range planning is



Bob Woodward (R) and Dr. Pat Woodward

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remarkable and is evident in the execution and accomplishment of management activities that include their children and grandchildren.

Enjoyment of the Family Farm is not limited to just the family. For many years, the Woodwards have hosted

field tours and allowed scout troops to use the property for camping and natural resource education toward fulfilling merit badge requirements. Bob Woodward has served on the University of Florida IFAS Advisory Board for eight years in support of forestry.

Susan Woodward Walker sums up the Woodward Family Tree Farm so eloquently, "I am so thankful that we continue to own the farm and that we can manage it for timber and recreation, so that our children and grandchildren have the opportunity to enjoy it, too."

Partnerships are Key: Chipola River Stream Bank Restoration and Stabilization Project

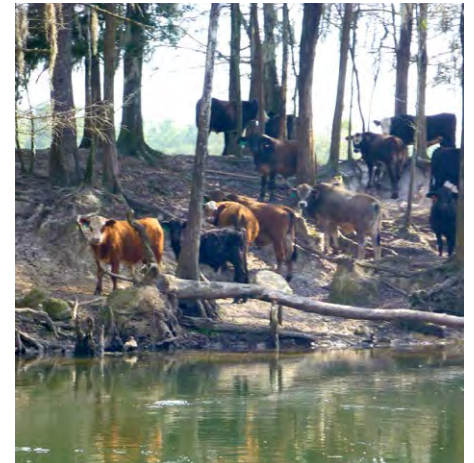
By Arlo H. Kane and Jessica Graham, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

River systems are constantly impacted by the activities that occur on the landscape surrounding the river. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Wildlife Legacy Initiative is making the improvement and maintenance of hydrologic conditions, water quality, and physical habitats for the support of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) the primary freshwater goal for 2012-2017. The Legacy Initiative approach to conserving Florida's freshwater habitats and species addresses large areas known as basins, which encompass all the land that drains into the river and its tributaries. This approach should lead to more effective management of freshwater species and their habitats. Threats in a particular basin may come from agricultural runoff, siltation, groundwater withdrawal, and other nutrient inputs to the river. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, agriculture and sediment pollution are considered the two leading causes of impairments to U.S. rivers today. These threats affect the water quality and therefore the fish and wildlife resources in those rivers.

The Legacy Initiative has identified 12 high ranking basins in which to begin their restoration work. The Chipola River, near Marianna in Northwest Florida, is located in one

of those basins. Classified as a calcareous stream, the Chipola flows from Alabama to the Apalachicola River and is fed by 63 documented springs including Jackson Blue, a first magnitude spring. The Chipola was ranked as one of the top ten rivers to watch in 2013 by the National Fish Habitat Partnership. The stretch of the river from the confluence of Cowarts and Marshall Creeks down to its confluence with the Apalachicola River has been listed as Critical Habitat for five listed freshwater mussel species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Thirteen state listed freshwater obligate SGCN also occur within the basin, including three birds, two turtles, one salamander, and two fish (most notably the shoal bass). The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has also recognized the Chipola River as particularly important for restoration because it has been identified as critical habitat for shoal bass spawning.

About 50% of the lands bordering the Chipola River are agricultural lands that have been converted from forests to crop and grazing land. One approach to improving the water quality of the Chipola River would be to work with willing landowners to reduce agricultural impacts and sedimentation by reducing grazing pressure and re-establishing the



Livestock using the river can severely erode the banks and damage river habitat. Photo by FL Dept of Environmental Protection.

riparian buffer zones. An initial assessment of the river by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy identified sites with severe bank erosion. Biologists from the FWC's Wildlife Legacy initiative, Division of Freshwater Fisheries, Landowner Assistance Program, and Aquatic Habitat Conservation Restoration Section together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program met with Larry Baggett, a local farmer in Jackson County whose cattle were using the river as their drinking source. Biologists were able to show him how much of his pasture was being lost to the river each year and

Continued on next page

offered to help restore the river bank and provide alternate drinking water for the cattle. Mr. Baggett was very interested in getting involved and has been a great partner on this project.

Work on the project has begun and is being funded by the FWC, USFWS, and the landowner. The first step is to install a fence along the bank to prevent the cattle from accessing

the river. Solar wells and troughs are being installed to provide adequate drinking water for the cattle. After these are completed the bank will be reshaped and re-vegetated to secure the bank from future erosion.

A program to monitor the water quality, fish, and invertebrate community structure has been put in place. Sites upstream, downstream, and within

the restoration area will be sampled before, during, and after the restoration to document the effects of the project. This is the first of what we hope will be several projects to help keep the Chipola River one of the premier river systems in Northwest Florida.

Helen Roth: Amazing Florida Land Steward

By Arlo H. Kane, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Welcome to Spring Canyon LLC in Gadsden County, a 100-acre property owned by Helen and Tom Roth. This beautiful property is home to steep-head ravines and longleaf pine-wire grass sandhills.

Helen has traced the history of the property through property records and aerial photographs back to 1926 near the end of the turpentine era. In 1960, the land was donated to the First Baptist Church of Greensboro. The church put in a dam on Crooked Creek to create a small lake in the center of the property. Fire was excluded from the uplands during their ownership. Helen's brother, Mark Bane, bought the property in 1993 and began working with the Forest Stewardship Program in 1994. He harvested the hardwoods from two of the three upland areas and applied prescribed fire to one of the areas before he passed away in 2005 and the property passed to Mark and Helen's father.



Helen Roth, owner and manager of Spring Canyon

In 2008, Helen and Tom purchased the land from her father and entered the Forest Stewardship Program. At that time, the one upland area that had been cleared and burned was in good shape and so it became Helen's reference area for what the rest of the uplands should look like. In the

areas that had been cleared but not burned, natural regeneration of longleaf pine had occurred, but the encroaching hardwoods were head high. Helen was able to get a contractor to come in and conduct a prescribed burn in 2011. She quickly

Continued on next page

Trying to cut down on paper mail?

The Florida Land Steward newsletter is available online from floridalandsteward.org and the link to the current and back issues is included in each weekly email update. If you would like to discontinue the hard copy delivery of each issue to your mailbox and access the newsletter electronically, contact Chris Demers at (352) 846-2375 or cdemers@ufl.edu to request that. Your mailing status won't be changed unless you request it.

learned that the fire helped control small hardwood saplings that were invading the uplands, but it did not control the larger hardwoods enough to open up the habitat.

Helen's goal for the property is to restore and maintain the longleaf pine-wiregrass uplands that will ultimately maintain healthy steephead ravines and provide good wildlife habitat. In 2012, Helen entered the Working Lands for Wildlife Program operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Working Lands for Wildlife Program is focused on creating and restoring habitat for gopher tortoises. Helen was awarded a contract for 26.5 acres of brush management and prescribed burning. The upland sandhills were divided into 3 treatment

areas and work on clearing brush and trees up to 6 inches in diameter began in the summer of 2013. Using a battery operated chainsaw, she and a volunteer cleared the first 8.5 acres by October of that year. By January 2014, they had cleared another 14 acres. In March 2014, the first burn on the three upland areas was conducted and Helen became a certified prescribed burn manager. The final 4 acres of brush management was finished in August 2014.

Since the completion of the brush management, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of gopher tortoises and fox squirrels using the property. New burrows are appearing and inactive burrows are being re-activated. The endangered Gholson's Gayfeather (*Liatris ghol-*

sonii) is one of many wildflowers exploding across the now open sandhill habitat, and the wiregrass has begun to recover after years of excessive shade and fire exclusion. To say the transformation has been spectacular is an understatement. One has to see the property to believe the change.

Helen loves to use the property to educate other landowners and those interested in Florida's natural areas. Over the years she has led tours for the Florida Native Plant Society and the North American Butterfly Association and will soon host the Florida Trails Association. She has been visited by a number of university professors and researchers who have come to study the plants, wildlife, and ravines on her property. Much of what she has learned about the



Before the brush clearing project

Get Email Updates!

Don't miss out on upcoming events and news! Send an email to cdemers@ufl.edu to be added to the Stewardship listserv. Updates are sent every week or two.



After the brush clearing

plants on the property she learned from members of the Florida Native Plant Society. She labels plants as people identify them so she is able to observe them throughout the seasons. This is a great way to learn how to identify plants whether in flower or not. Her philosophy has been that you need to learn the plants on your property so you know which ones are most vulnerable and need protection and which ones are invasive and need to be removed to protect the native habitat. She encourages other landowners to get involved with their

local native plant society chapter and begin learning the plants on their property. The more you learn, the more you will enjoy your property.

If you would like to visit Spring Canyon and see this beautiful property for yourself, there will be a Forest Stewardship tour scheduled for Spring 2015. Details will be an upcoming issue of the Florida Land Steward newsletter and in the regular Florida Land Steward email updates.

Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2014 Tax Year Available Online

Each year the USDA Forest Service produces a bulletin to assist forest landowners and their advisors with timber tax information they can use to file their income tax returns. The bulletin for the 2014 tax year will be available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/tax.shtml>

Those without web access can contact Chris Demers, (352) 846-2375, cdemers@ufl.edu and request a copy.



COYOTES NEEDED!



The University of Florida is conducting a study of coyote dietary habits in Florida and needs **YOU** to donate your catch! We are especially interested in how coyotes are

affecting **white-tailed deer, turkeys, bobwhite quail, livestock, and pets!**

YOUR help is needed to obtain legally acquired coyote carcasses, with or without pelts. We will also accept coyote stomachs and intestines if you cannot store the whole carcass. Carcasses or stomachs and intestines should be **frozen** in a suitable bag or container, and include the name of contributor, animal **weight/sex**, date harvested/obtained, and location harvested/obtained.

Arrangements can be made to get carcasses from you at the University or combine your animals with others in your area for a pickup. **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! Contact Lauren N. Watine & Bill Giuliano, lnwatine@ufl.edu, (352) 846-0575.

TIMBER PRICE UPDATE

The timber pricing information below is useful for observing trends over time, but does not 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.

Average stumpage prices for the three major products in Florida, as reported in the **3rd Quarter 2014** Timber Mart-South report were:

Florida Stumpage Prices

Pine pulpwood: \$40/cord (\$15/ton), ↓ from 1st Qtr 2014

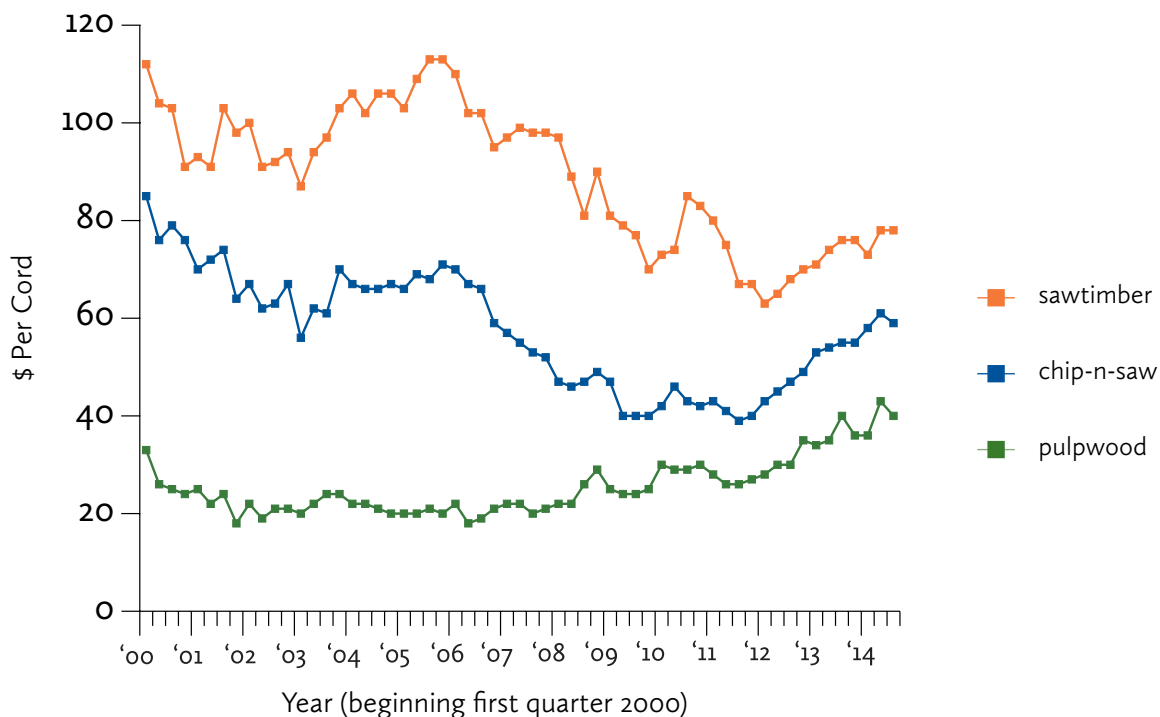
Pine C-N-S: \$59/cord (\$22/ton), ↓

Pine sawtimber: \$78/cord (\$29/ton), same

Trend Report

Average stumpage prices in Florida were mixed this quarter, with pine pulpwood prices decreasing a little but holding around \$14-15/ton. Average pine sawtimber were about the same as last quarter's prices in Florida and across the region. The Klausner Lumber One saw mill in Suwannee County is expected to start up during the 4th quarter and will bring new demand for larger timber in that region. Domestic and international demand for hardwood lumber continues to be strong.

Average Pine Stumpage Prices for Florida
1st Qtr 2000 through 3rd Qtr 2014



Timber Mart-South is compiled and produced at the Center for Forest Business, Warnell School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia, under contract with the Frank W. Norris Foundation, a non-profit corporation serving the forest products industry. See <http://www.tmart-south.com/> for information on subscriptions.

CONGRATULATIONS

CERTIFIED FOREST STEWARDS AND TREE FARMERS

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

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/For-Landowners/Programs/>

or

<http://www.floridaforest.org>

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.



Jeff Poole, Suwannee County



William C. Brown (center) with Cathy Hardin and Adam Parden, Escambia County



Larry Evitt (R) with Brian Cobble, Suwannee County



Minnie Hagin with consultant Joe Gocsik (R) and Corey Walk, Hillsborough County



David Crum (R) with Corey Walk, Hillsborough County



Ranger Bart Keen, Boy Scouts Flaming Arrow-Gulf Ridge Council (R) with Corey Walk, Polk County

Upcoming Stewardship, Small Farm and Other Events

Date	Event, Location, Contact
Nov 10 & Dec 12	Non-timber Forest Products Fall 2014 Webinars. This webinar series highlights the diverse world of non-timber forest products and is a national partnership effort between the American Forest Foundation and the Cooperative Extension Service. These last 2 sessions will focus on cultivated mushrooms and botanicals. Foresters, SAF CFEs are approved. <i>Details and registration at https://www.treefarmssystem.org/national-calendar</i>
Nov 15	FAMU Cooperative Extension Program Fall Farm Fest 2014 Agri-Showcase. 8 am to 3 pm, FAMU Research & Extension Center, Quincy, Florida 32352 . 2K Rattler Farm Run/Walk starts at 8:30 am. Vet-Tech Open House, Farm Tours, Educational Demonstrations & Exhibits, Rattler 2K Farm Run/Walk, Animals, Crops, Kid's Zone, Health & Wellness, Entertainment for all ages. <i>For more information, contact FAMU Cooperative Extension at (850) 599-3546</i>
Jan 27-Feb 17, 2015	2015 Master Tree Farmer will be conducted every Tuesday evening beginning on Januray 27, 2015 continuing through February 17. The program will start at 7:00pm and end at 8:30pm. This year the program will be delivered via the internet which means you will have the option to watch it at home. <i>Details at http://www.mastertreefarmer.net/treefarm2015.html</i>

For many more events and information see: floridalandsteward.org

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