

# FLORIDA LAND STEWARD



A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

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## Florida Forestry Wildlife Best Management Practices for State Imperiled Species

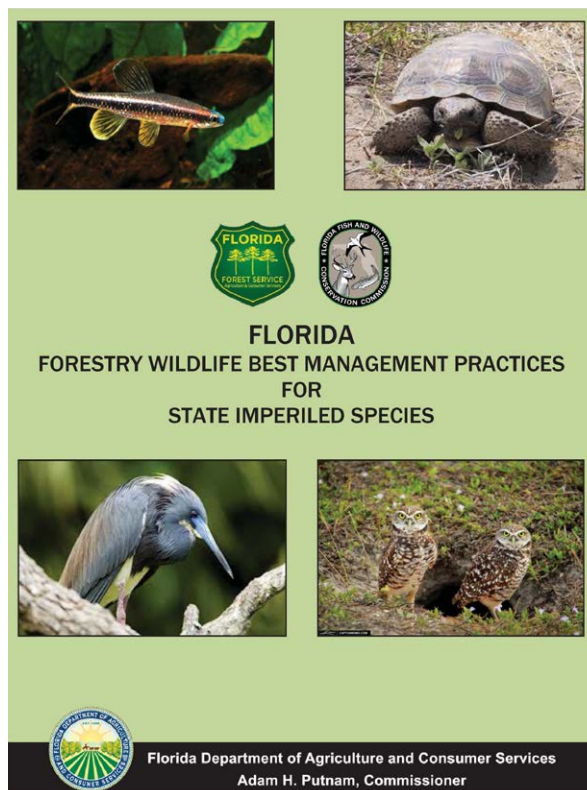
By Roy Lima, Florida Forest Service

In May 2013, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission began developing voluntary Best Management Practices for imperiled species of wildlife in Florida. The Forestry Wildlife Best Management Practices for Imperiled Species (WBMPs) were officially adopted on October 21, 2014 under rule 5I-8 F.A.C., and are the product of the Silviculture BMP Technical Advisory Committee – a 22 member committee composed of a highly diverse group of forestry stakeholders appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

The WBMP Manual addresses only some state imperiled species in Florida and does not include those federally listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Fish and wildlife species currently on the state imperiled list were evaluated to determine the potential for incidental take to occur during silviculture or agricultural activities. The purpose of the WBMPs is to serve as an alternative to conventional permitting for incidental take of 16 specific state imperiled species that are likely to be affected by

silvicultural operations. The WBMPs are practical, easily understood and easily implemented, and are voluntary measures to be implemented at a landowner's discretion, as per Chapter 570.094 F.S. The practices were designed as a completely separate document from the current silviculture BMPs for protecting water quality, and are not intended as a means of species recovery, expansion or habitat restoration.

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Wildlife Best Management Practices manual

**UF IFAS**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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An Equal Opportunity Institution.

Applicants who enroll in the WBMP program via the Notice of Intent (NOI) and implement the practices are not required to obtain a permit authorizing the incidental take of state imperiled species associated with their operations. For NOI participants, on-site monitoring may

be conducted periodically by personnel from both the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Forest Service (FFS), to determine whether or not the WBMPs have been properly implemented.

For more information about the new Florida Forestry Wildlife Best Management Practices, please contact Jeff Vowell at (850) 681-5820 or [Jeff.Vowell@FreshFromFlorida.com](mailto:Jeff.Vowell@FreshFromFlorida.com).

## Klausner Lumber One Mill Now Operating in Suwannee County

By Chris Demers, UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation

The new Klausner Lumber One saw mill in Suwannee County has been building log inventory since the last quarter of 2014. By the time this issue reaches your mailbox the state-of-the-art mill will be fully operational, with about 60 log trucks delivering saw logs per shift each day.

### Austrian Roots

The Klausner Group was founded in Europe in 1991, when Austrian Fritz Klausner built his first mill in former East Germany as a green field investment. In 2004, Klausner Holz Sachsen, located on the border with Poland and Czech Republic, went into production. The company and sales management office, Klausner Trading International, is headquartered in Oberndorf, Austria, close to the Klausner family's first sawmill founded in 1918 (closed in 1996).

### State-of-the-Art Production and Quality Control

One of the largest and most productive softwood timber manufacturers in Europe, Klausner produces approximately 1.3 billion board feet of sawn lumber annually and exports products across the globe. The Klausner Lumber One mill is the largest and most technologically advanced sawmill now operating in the Southeastern U.S.



Klausner Lumber One Sawmill in Suwannee County. Photo by John Coch

### Commitment to Sustainability

The Klausner Group's wood procurement team will seek wood that is certified by the PEFC or PEFC-endorsed certification systems, like Tree Farm and Sustainable Forestry Initiative. As with other global forest product manufacturers, forest certification is becoming increasingly important for product marketing; for lumber and any type of sawmill by-product. All Klausner sawmills are certified according to the PEFC Standards.

### Why Here?

The Southeastern U.S. is now considered internationally as the wood basket of the world. The existing infrastructure, stable political and legal environments, freedom of timberland owners to grow timber products, and the abundance and relative fast growth of southern pines make this

region attractive to global forest products companies. In finding the right place to locate in the region, Klausner found overwhelming support for their mill on the part of the Suwannee County Commissioners, Live Oak City Commissioners, and the local community there.

### Enough Wood?

There is some concern that, given the large scale and capacity of the new mill and demand for other wood products in the region, the supply of sawtimber material may be limited. In response to these concerns the company says that the people that are growing trees indicate that the supply is there and will be there.

Klausner's Thomas Mende, President of International Business Development for Klausner Trading USA, said that lumber is a growing industry and Suwannee County and the surrounding area has "great growth potential on top of its existing resources." Mende believes that, because of the size of the saw mill, "we will draw from a larger area than the existing mills in the area. Many tree growers in the area never had more than one mill to sell to so they didn't grow trees on sawtimber rotations." The company believes the new mill's demand will be an incentive for timber growers to extend timber

Continued on next page



Klausner Lumber One wood yard. Photo by John Coch

rotations, maximizing the growth potential of their timber stands and the return on their timber investment.

While extending timber rotations will mean fewer final harvests of

smaller, pulpwood-size material, it also means that more stands will be thinned at least once before final harvest to favor the best crop trees, which would be good for markets for smaller material. More thinning

would also be good for many wildlife species, which would benefit from the increased abundance of food and cover vegetation that is promoted by thinning forest stands.

It will be interesting to see the extent to which the Klausner Lumber One mill influences forest management in the region and how the markets adjust to the changes that the mill will surely bring.

#### Sources

Klausner Group website,  
<http://www.klausner-group.com>

Vann, Amber. "Klausner Sawmill Coming Together." *Suwannee Democrat* 28 Nov. 2014: online  
<http://www.suwanneedemocrat.com>

## From Scientist to Farmer: Today's Farmers Come from All Walks of Life

By Gail Hendricks, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Once upon a time, fulltime farmers were the norm. That's not necessarily the case today. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, more than half of Florida's principal farm operators report primary occupations other than farming.

Marion County Forest Steward and farmer, Mr. Richard McGinley, is a good example. He spent his early years in the Miami area. Until he was in high school he lived in the city, then his Dad moved the family to

Ocala, Florida to begin farming. However, McGinley had other interests that took him far from farming. He established a career in the nuclear industry and even started his own consulting business.

Then his Dad became ill and McGinley returned to Ocala to help out on the family farm. When his Dad passed away he sold his consulting company and took over fulltime operations at McGinley Farm. Though his life went in a totally different direction than

he originally planned, McGinley says farming has been very rewarding and an eye-opening experience. He enjoys working fulltime on his family's 950 acres; while occasionally doing nuclear consulting on the side.

McGinley is ever the scientist and always researches new and improved ways to farm. He works with local, state and federal agencies to explore ways to modernize his farm while also benefitting the environment.

Continued on next page

## Trying to cut down on paper mail?

The Florida Land Steward newsletter is available online from [floridalandsteward.org](http://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](mailto:cdemers@ufl.edu) to request that. Your mailing status won't be changed unless you request it.



Urban sprawl also has to be considered in his plans since the farm is now surrounded by development.

One of the first things he did when he took over the farm was to call the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, or NRCS, for advice. Jill Dobbs, the local NRCS district conservationist, worked with him to evaluate and determine what he was doing well and what needed attention on his farm. They also explored financial assistance opportunities through the agency.

"Working with NRCS and the programs available has helped me obtain a lot of things I wasn't able to before. Their staff made me more aware of conservation methods and how I can

help out other farmers in the area," McGinley said.

He applied for and received cost share money from Farm Bill programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program to help improve his land. Through these USDA programs he added a GPS system to his tractor for more precision farming. By being more accurate he has saved energy and nutrient and pesticide costs. Using less fertilizer and pesticide he reduces the amount that can run off his fields into nearby waterways.

To increase those savings he has installed an efficient precision pivot irrigation system that requires less

water, added a solar well and recycles the oil he uses on the farm. Cross fencing, another conservation practice, helps rotate livestock in his pastures for more exact grazing.

McGinley has also branched out into growing olive trees. With citrus diseases, such as Citrus Greening decimating Florida's industry, the University of Florida and local growers are evaluating suitable crop alternatives. After consulting with his local UF/IFAS extension agent, he planted a small experimental plot of seven varieties of olive trees, to determine which will grow best in his area.

Ocala, being the Marion County seat, has new housing developments popping up all the time, encroaching on wildlife habitat and hindering wildlife that like to roam on native land. To help create a wildlife corridor, McGinley made a conscious effort to leave a section of his land in trees and native vegetation, and improves these areas by planting special grasses and plants. He often sees deer, turkey, hawks and other birds, gopher tortoise, and occasionally a bald eagle. Some of the animals he sees are listed as threatened or endangered species by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Although starting out in a very different profession, McGinley, like many others in farming today, has made the transition to farmer in his own way. If you are looking for assistance with your land management operation, a good place to start is <http://floridalandsteward.org>



An experimental plot of seven varieties of olive trees grows on Richard McGinley's Marion County farm. USDA Photo by Gail Hendricks

# 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](mailto:cdemers@ufl.edu) and request a copy.

## Thanks 2014 Florida Forest Stewardship Program Sponsors

Each year forestry and natural resource related organizations and businesses provide support for Florida's Forest Stewardship Program events offered across the state each year.

We thank these organizations and businesses for their support of the 2014 Forest Stewardship Program:

**Blanton's Longleaf Container Nursery**  
**Columbia Timber & Environmental Services**  
**F&W Forestry Services**  
**Farm Credit Associations of Florida**

**Florida Forestry Association**  
**Forest Environmental Solutions**  
**Green Circle Bio Energy**  
**International Forest Company**

**McGowan Forestry**  
**National Wild Turkey Federation**  
**Promise Habitat Services**

If your organization or business would like to support the 2015 Forest Stewardship Program contact Chris Demers, [cdemers@ufl.edu](mailto:cdemers@ufl.edu), (352) 846-2375.

## Get Email Updates!

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

# 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 **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2014** Timber Mart-South report were:

## Florida Stumpage Prices

**Pine pulpwood:** \$40/cord (\$15/ton), same as 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2014

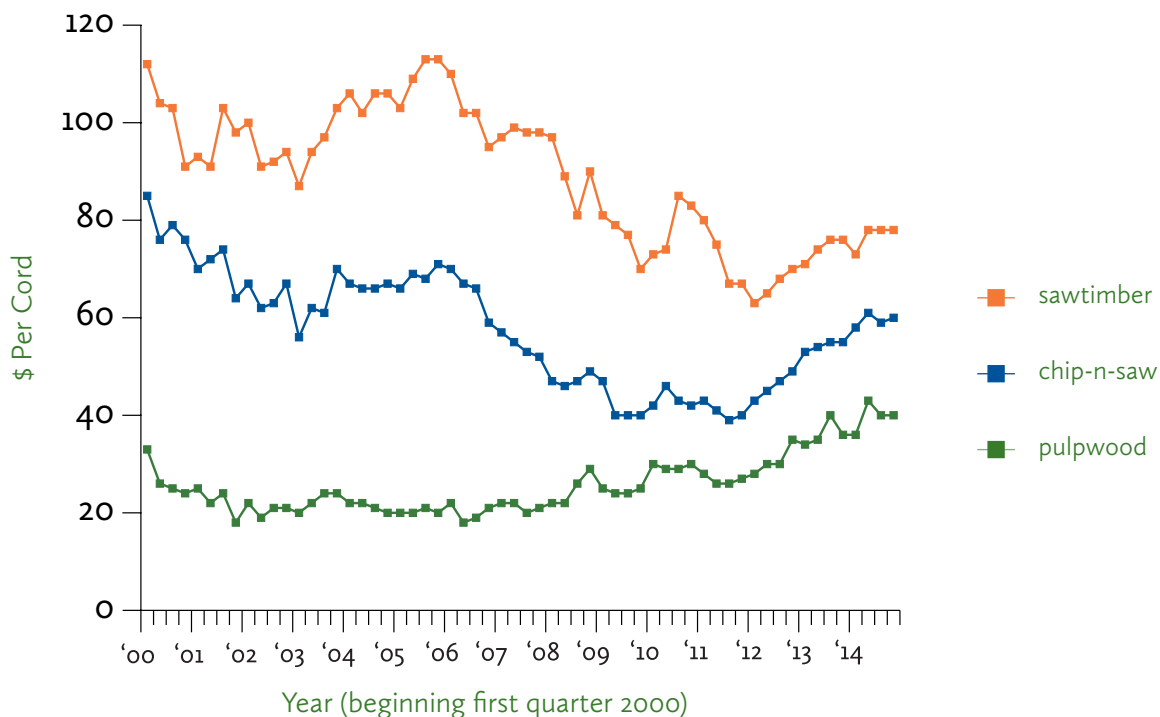
**Pine C-N-S:** \$60/cord (\$23/ton), ↑ slightly

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

## Trend Report

Average stumpage prices in Florida held steady in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2014. With economic recovery continuing, both manufacturing and employment saw some growth last quarter. Nationwide demand for southern pine lumber is on the rise – good news for sawmills and landowners. Although market conditions are still subdued relative to 10 years ago, housing markets showed moderate to strong growth. Lower fuel costs are certainly helping many sectors but there is uncertainty about how long that will last.

**Average Pine Stumpage Prices for Florida**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2000 through 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



Don Bush with Cathy Hardin, Escambia County



Sheri Cline (R) with Corey Walk, Polk County



Mr. and Mrs. John Puffer with Corey Walk (L), Hillsborough County



Frederick Keiber (center) with Kurt Olsen (consultant) and Calin Ionita (R), Highlands County



Samuel Oswald, Polk County



Ronald Stevens (L) with Cory Walk, Hillsborough County



Rocking V Ranch, Cory Walk pictured, Hillsborough County



William Girtman, Polk County



Thomas Winkler with Corey Walk, Polk County

### Upcoming Stewardship, Small Farm and Other Events

Date	Event, Location, Contact
Feb 26	<b>Forest Stewardship Workshop: Integrating Wildlife and Forestry</b> , 9 am to 3 pm ET, Austin Cary Forest Learning Center, 10625 NE Waldo Rd, Gainesville, FL 32609. <i>Register online at <a href="http://fsp-workshop022615.eventbrite.com/">http://fsp-workshop022615.eventbrite.com/</a> or contact Chris Demers, <a href="mailto:cdemers@ufl.edu">cdemers@ufl.edu</a>, (352) 846-2375.</i>
Mar 13	<b>Cover Crop Test Plot Field Tour</b> , 10 am to 1 pm ET, NRCS Brooksville Plant Material Center, 14119 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34601. <i>Contact Janet Grabowski, (352) 796-9600, ext. 101 or <a href="mailto:janet.grabowski@fl.usda.gov">janet.grabowski@fl.usda.gov</a></i>
Mar 2-15 & Mar 17-20	<b>Natural Areas Training Academy: \$130/190 Basic Wildland Firefighter Training</b> , presented in a hybrid format online, Waccasassa Forestry Center, and Ordway-Swisher Biological Station. \$125 General Registration, \$100 Student Registration. <i>Contact the Academy for information, (850) 875-7153.</i>
Mar 16-17 or Mar 20-21	<b>Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business</b> , Live Oak, FL. <i>Contact Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center at (386) 362-1725.</i>
Mar 18-19	<b>Florida Urban Forestry Council Symposium: The Cost of Not Maintaining Trees</b> , Patel Center of Global Sustainability, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. Foresters, 12 Cat 1 SAF CFEs are approved. <i>See link above for details and registration. Contact Sandy Temple, (407) 872-1738, <a href="mailto:fufo@aol.com">fufo@aol.com</a></i>
Mar 20	<b>Forest Stewardship Tour at Yulee Tree Farm</b> , property of Bill Anderson, Volusia County, FL. 9 am to 2 pm ET. <i>Details and online registration to come. \$10 fee. Contact Volusia County Extension to register, (386) 822-5778.</i>
April 23	<b>Forest Stewardship Tour at Spring Canyon</b> , property of Helen and Tom Roth, Gadsden County, FL. 9 am to 2 pm ET. <i>Details and online registration to come. \$10 fee. Contact Gadsden County Extension to register, (850) 875-7255.</i>
June 16-18	<b>Conference on Laurel Wilt Disease and Natural Ecosystems: Impacts, Mitigation and the Future</b> , Coral Springs Marriott, 11775 Heron Bay Blvd. Coral Springs, FL. Foresters, SAF CFEs pending approval. <i>Contact Dr. Jason A. Smith, (352) 846-0843, <a href="mailto:jasons@ufl.edu">jasons@ufl.edu</a></i>

### For many more events and information see: [floridalandsteward.org](http://floridalandsteward.org)

The Florida Land Steward Newsletter is a University of Florida/IFAS Extension Service, Florida Forest Service, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Florida Tree Farm joint project:

**Chris Demers** (editor)  
UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources & Conservation  
(352) 846-2375 • [cdemers@ufl.edu](mailto:cdemers@ufl.edu)  
**Dr. Michael Andreu** (co-editor)  
UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources & Conservation  
(352) 846-0355 • [mandreu@ufl.edu](mailto:mandreu@ufl.edu)

**Dr. Bill Giuliano** (co-editor)  
UF/IFAS Department of Wildlife Ecology  
& Conservation  
(352) 846-0575 • [docg@ufl.edu](mailto:docg@ufl.edu)  
**Tony Grossman** (co-editor)  
Florida Forest Service  
(850) 414-9907  
[Anthony.Grossman@freshfromflorida.com](mailto:Anthony.Grossman@freshfromflorida.com)

**Joseph Prenger** (co-editor)  
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission  
(850) 410-5268 • [Joe.Prenger@MyFWC.com](mailto:Joe.Prenger@MyFWC.com)  
**Jon Gould** (co-editor)  
Florida Tree Farm Committee  
(205) 991-9435 • [gouldjh@bellsouth.net](mailto:gouldjh@bellsouth.net)