FLORIDA LAND STEWARD

A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

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Congratulations Greg Marshall: Recipient of 2022 American Tree Farm System National Leadership Award

By Tony Grossman, Florida Tree Farm Program President and Chris Demers, UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

We are very pleased to announce that Greg Marshall is the recipient of the 2022 American Tree Farm System National Leadership Award. Greg has functioned way above and beyond expectations as a Florida Tree Farm Program Board Member, District Chair, State Vice President, State President, and Past President; all while maintaining his efforts as both a highly active inspector in one of the busiest Tree Farm areas of Florida, and a District Chair.

Most notably, during the onset of Florida becoming a "certified state" and the Florida Tree Farm Program becoming a non-profit organization for fundraising

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Greg Marshall at Jon and Carol Gould's Tree Farm in 2018. Greg received the 2022 American Tree Farm System National Leadership Award for his outstanding service to and leadership in the American Tree Farm System in Florida and nationally. Photo by Jon Gould.

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purposes, Greg was instrumental in leading the Program through the transition. He developed our Program Leadership manual in 2015, worked with other states in developing the Program's by-laws, and created the organizational structure needed to become a 501c3 organization. Over the last several years Greg has written several grants to support Program activities, which were funded, and he coordinated the successful completion of the activities funded by those grants.

Under Greg's leadership, participation in the Florida Tree Farm Program has increased significantly. The number of active and trained inspectors have both nearly doubled since Greg became active in the Program. He has successfully recruited consulting foresters to become active inspectors by regularly attending Association of Consulting Foresters meetings and presenting on the benefits of the Tree Farm program.

Greg has also been successful in growing the Program leadership by encouraging a diverse group of stakeholders to take an active role on the state Tree Farm committee and board. Greg was instrumental in expanding and helping to fund the collaboration between our state Tree Farm committee and UF/IFAS Extension outreach efforts to better serve landowner's informational needs through this newsletter, email updates, webinars, field tours, and workshops. It is this coordinated outreach that enables our Program and Tree Farmers in Florida to stay in touch with a broad spectrum of landowners, forestry, and natural resource professionals across Florida.

As the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Regional Coordinator for Florida Forest Service (FFS), Greg is responsible for mentoring county foresters and their supervisors to enhance the delivery of technical and financial assistance to forest owners in Northeast Florida. He maintains a very active Forest Stewardship Program and, through innovations like Florida's Landscape Management Plan (LMP), he has trained his foresters to increase their accomplishments by spending more time with landowners and less time in the office. Greg has created templates for LMP plans as well as Forest Stewardship Plans and trained FFS staff and partners on using these templates to provide landowners useful information in a consistent and quick format. Greg provided presentations on LMPs at the 2017 (New Mexico), 2018 (South Carolina) and 2019 (Kentucky) National Leadership Conferences. He coordinates effectively with partners, such as USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), by hosting regular meetings between field staff and leadership from the partner agencies. Knowing no barriers to serving landowners, he has recruited FWC Landowner Assistance Biologists to become inspectors and take an active role on the state committee.

A strong believer in landowner recognition, Greg has submitted several nominations for Florida's outstanding tree farmer of the year. He also has served multiple times on national judging teams visiting Ohio, Michigan, South Dakota, Washington, Missouri, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, and Maine. Greg also served on a review team to evaluate the judging process for the National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.

Out and about you are likely to find Greg at the Florida Tree Farm Program display booth at regional and state forestry functions, field trips, workshops, and professional meetings. He even set up a display at a Gainesville brewery to highlight the connection between certified Tree Farms, clean water, and good beer. Greg is a constant promoter of the Tree Farm Program whether the audience is forest owners, county foresters, consultants, industry foresters, agency partners, or the general public.

THANKS Greg for all your outstanding service to the American Tree Farm System and forest owners in Florida and across the U.S.

Greg Marshall and Chris Demers hosting the Family Forest Tree Farm display at a local Gainesville brewery. Photo by Michele Wood.

Invasive Species: What do Land Managers Need to Know

Ginger Feagle, Megan Ellis, and Lanie McClenithan, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

When thinking about **invasive species** during land management activities, the words *exotic, introduced, nuisance, or alien* may come to mind – these descriptions all refer to species that cause problems by taking a foothold in our Florida landscape. Plants like hydrilla, melaleuca, Brazilian pepper, and cogongrass may sound familiar due to their significant economic impact, with high costs paid to keep them under control. Along with plants, invasive species can include animals and diseases that have direct impact on our Florida landscapes and wildlife.

Many species find Florida a hospitable place to establish new populations. The state has a warm climate, plenty of rainfall, lots of wind, and an international pathway of people and products. A seed carried by a bird, a lizard stowaway in a shipping container, a root stuck to field equipment, combined with a few winters without freezing temperatures may allow invasive species to be introduced to Florida or extend their range.

It is important to note that not every organism outside of its natural range is considered invasive and not all quick establishing species come from outside their range. There are several ornamental and fruit species that don't pose a risk in our natural areas, such as a hybrid rose bush or a pear tree. Also, Florida is home to many native species such as dogfennel or beggartick that quickly grow on soil-disturbed sites. These plants are referred to "opportunistic" or "colonizers," and are not much of a concern unless overrunning a landowner's row crop or a planted pine stand.

A true invasive plant or animal has been introduced and easily adapted to the climate of a **new** landscape by taking advantage of sun, food and water resources to enable growth, reproduction, survival and spread *while* posing a threat to our native plants and/or animals. These invasives can negatively impact or even destroy an ecosystem by disrupting nutrient cycles, outcompeting native species, preying upon native wildlife, and ultimately decreasing the overall biodiversity of a native ecosystem. As Florida land stewards, we must quickly identify and eradicate these nonnative species that could potentially cause adverse impact to the ecology, economy or human health and safety, when feasible.

How do invasives species spread?

Natural disturbances such as floods, windstorms, and fire are required in many landscapes to maintain healthy habitats and reduce hardwood overgrowth. Land managers often mimic natural events through their stewardship activities, such as timber thinning operations, mowing, and prescribed fire.

Whether a disturbance is natural or mimicked by humans, even the best land stewards can inadvertently spread an invasive species into an area. For example, the movement of the tiny spores of the Japanese climbing fern by way of machinery, airflow and along waterways enables it to move across the landscape. Along with disturbances, intentional or accidental releases/escapes of plants or animals from captive settings, such as during storm events, can be source a source of introduction. To prevent dispersal of invasive species, it is important that equipment is carefully inspected, washed, and rechecked for hitchhiking animals or plant material before moving into an area.

What is EDRR and how do we control invasive species?

Ideally, land managers work together to stay ahead of nonnative species introductions with an action plan of Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR). EDRR is widely used to reverse or prevent the establishment of invasive species by promptly locating, identifying, and treating a plant species before they spread. EDRR principles apply to non-native plant control, non-native animal control, and disease control too. Quick action by land managers can avoid a more costly situation that requires greater effort and more financial resources for later control. More about EDRR is at **https://www.invasive.org/edrr/**.

Preventing establishment of potentially invasive species can reduce the risk of disease and help avoid a situation like laurel wilt disease across the southeast. In this case, the infestation started in 2002, when an invasive Ambrosia beetle was first detected near Savannah, Georgia within imported wood shipping materials. A year later, red bay trees were noticeably turning brown in Georgia, and eventually through South Carolina and Florida. This red bay tree decline coincided with the range expansion of the beetle; however, researchers soon realized the trees were dying because of a fungus carried by the beetle as it moved from tree to tree. Since this disease targeted plants of the laurel family, it also posed a concern for sassafras, pondspice and avocado. As a result, the disease limited host-plant food resources for the Palamedes swallowtail butterfly and threatened south Florida's avocado industry, which continually monitors for Ambrosia beetle presence and will quickly step into action if detected.

An effective example of EDRR are the protocols for chronic wasting disease (CWD) (**https://myfwc.com/research/wildlife/health/white-tail-deer/cwd/**), a fatal disease for deer. While CWD has not been detected in Florida, it would likely impactstate's deer population if it was. To prevent introduction, Florida established guidelines to limit high-risk deer parts from crossing the state line (only deboned meat, cleaned hides, etc. can cross). Florida also prohibits importing live deer from other states. Early detection is critical and the state

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(L) A curtain of invasive kudzu covers native vegetation in Baker County, FL. Photo by FWC. (R) Water lettuce removal workday conducted by the North Central Florida CISMA at Ichetucknee Springs State Park. Photo by FWC.

monitors for CWD by testing tissue samples from sick, road-killed, and hunter-harvested deer. If detected, wildlife health staff would activate an immediate operation plan to limit the spread of CWD to other deer.

To understand how to prevent and control an invasive plant or animal population, it is important to know how to properly identify a problematic species and learn its weaknesses to disrupt its lifecycle or how to effectively detect and remove it from the environment. It is especially important to know how to tell invasive species (e.g., cogongrass and Cuban tree frogs) from our native look-alikes (e.g., maidencane and green tree frogs).

How can we control the spread of invasive species?

Controlling invasive plants requires a balance of treatments (mechanical and chemical) that meet a landowner's situation and goals. Treatment methods are not "one-size-fits-all." Successful eradication plans involve specific application methods, time of year, chemical mixtures, and follow-up treatments. For example, hand-pulling may work for small tree seedlings, foliar spray (treatment of the leaves) may treat a group of short saplings, and larger trees may require a selective hack-and-squirt (cutting directly into the bark for treatment). While conducting treatments, it is important to protect existing native species by minimizing ground disturbance and use a method that will target the undesired vegetation. See **https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AG245** for more information about herbicide application techniques for woody plants.

Effective treatment also involves patience. Land managers often wish to see immediate results from their actions. For vegetation, a stronger concentration of herbicide may produce immediate browning of above ground leaves, but it does not necessarily achieve the best long-term results. Often, the quick top-kill leads to root-sprouting where the plant multiplies to survive. Allowing time for a slow steady movement of herbicides up and through the root system (which may take a season or two) will be more effective than a seemingly quick browning.

Where can land managers get more information and become involved?

Land managers can connect with groups who have already researched, documented, and recommended treatment plans for invasive species and are working together to address invasive species problems:

- A list of invasive plants that have already established in Florida have been rated by the Florida Invasive Species Council (FISC) (**https://floridainvasivespecies.org/index.cfm**) as either Category I or II, depending on the ecological damage occurring. If a plant is designated as Category I, it actively displaces native species, changes community structure,

Continued on next page

or breeds with natives whereas a Category II is spreading and could become a Category I. These lists are referred to by land managers when prioritizing efforts and funding. The FISC website also provides current news and resource information.

- The Florida Invasive Species Partnership (**https://www.floridainvasives.org/**) provides information, cost-share opportunities, workshops, and involves land managers with species management. The FISP coordinates local Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (**https://www.invasive.org/cismas/**). CISMAs take regional approaches to invasive species management and host local events, workshops, and workdays. In the future, the two groups (FISP and FISC) will join forces to better serve natural land managers – expect more information soon.
- The UF/IFAS Invasive Species Council (**https://invasivespecies.ifas.ufl.edu/**)is a growing statewide network of UF/IFAS Extension specialists and agents who are working together to address problems caused by invasive organisms of all types more strategically and effectively.
- For new infestations, there is a reporting tool through the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health's Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System referred to as EDDMapS (**https://www.eddmaps.org/**). If you see a nonnative fish or wildlife species, you can report on your mobile phone IveGot1.org, which will help biologists track sightings and distribution of nonnative species to benefit Florida land managers.
- For invasives that haven't made it to Florida yet, The University of Florida's Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas (**https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/assessments/**) provides predictions on which species may pose a future threat to our landscapes based on factors that assist species' establishment.
- If you see a potentially invasive plant on your private property and need assistance with identification, or would like to learn more about managing wildlife habitat, contact your Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Landowner Assistance Program Biologist at **https://myfwc.com/lap**. FWC's Invasive Plant Management Section is available to assist with public land management at **MyFWC.com/wildlifehabitats/habitat/invasive-plants/upland-plant/**
- To prevent release of nonnative animals into our natural habitats, the FWC has a special Exotic Pet Amnesty Programs (**https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/amnesty-program/**) to assist pet owners with finding new homes for their unwanted pets.

Invasive species management can be challenging – it requires consistency and diligence. To win the battle, treat invasive plants across your property, monitor them regularly, stay up to date with current information, and stop them before they become a problem. Ongoing efforts to reduce the spread of invasive species will improve our forest health and the quality of habitat for Florida's wildlife.

Don't miss out on news and events!

A LOT happens between quarterly issues of this newsletter!

Sign up for the regular Florida Land Steward email updates so you don't miss out on assistance and educational opportunities. Send an email to **cdemers@ufl.edu** to be added to the listserv. Email updates are sent once a week or every other week and include the latest calendar of workshops, tours, webinars, and other events; a link to the current issue of this quarterly newsletter; updates on cost-share and other assistance programs, opportunities, and resources; and other stewardship related news and information.

All the latest news and events are online at the new UF/IFAS Florida Land Steward Program web site: **https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-land-steward/**.

TIMBER PRICE UPDATE

The timber price 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.

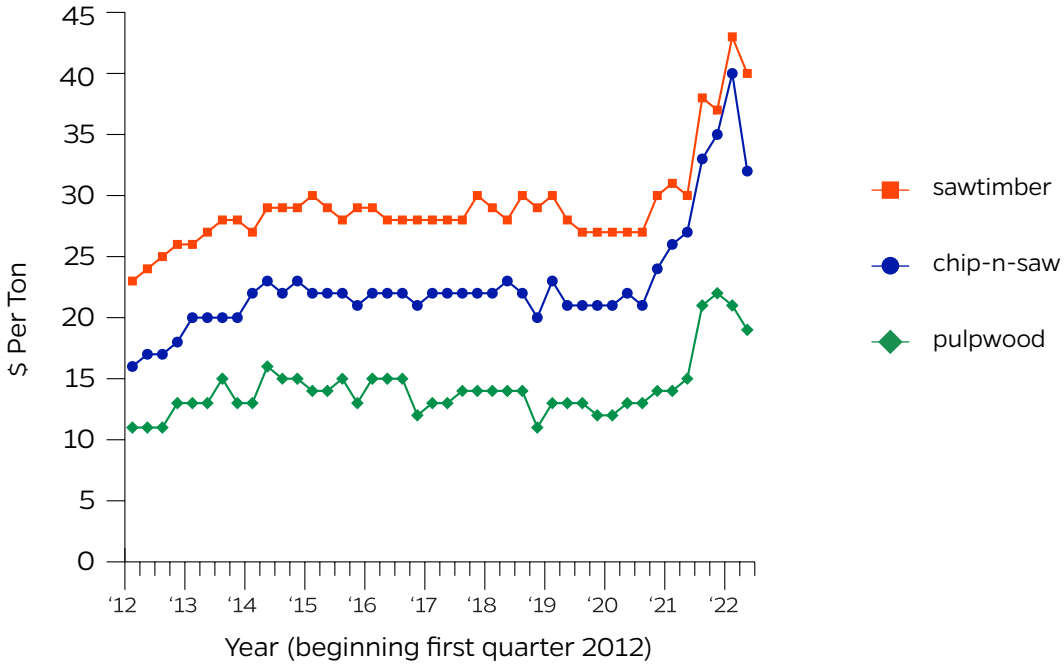
Average stumpage prices for the three major products in Florida, as reported in the **2nd Quarter 2022** Timber Mart-South report were:

Florida Stumpage Prices
Pine pulpwood: $19/ton, ↓ from 1st Qtr. 2022
Pine C-N-S: $32/ton, ↓
Pine sawtimber: $40/ton, ↓

Trend Report

Average pine stumpage prices in Florida and the rest of the region cooled a bit in the 2nd quarter of 2022. Drier weather in some areas alleviated supplies that were constrained during prolonged wet spells. On average, markets for paper held strong while those for solid wood products weakened. Southern pine retail lumber prices subsided over the last several months, falling more than 50% since last quarter. A noteworthy bit of market news in Florida is the closing of WestRock Company's pulp and paper mill in Panama City in early June. Timber growers in this area may be experiencing the impacts of that closure in wood sales taking place this year.

Average Pine Stumpage Prices for Florida ($/Ton)
1st Qtr 2012 through 2nd Qtr 2022



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 LANDOWNERS

More information about certification in these programs is available at:

https://www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/For-Landowners/Programs-for-Landowners/Forest-Stewardship-Program

https://www.treefarmsystem.org/florida

https://myfwc.com/lap

These landowners have achieved certification in the Tree Farm, Forest Stewardship, and/or Wildlife Habitat Recognition Programs and demonstrate excellent stewardship of their land resources.

Bob and Lori Carroll with Megan Ellis (R), Alachua County

George Cumpata, father-in-law of property owner, Daniel Kravchenko (not pictured), Levy County

Doug Oswald (L) with Jason Ballard, Marion County

Mike Adams (R) with Ginger Feagle, St. Johns County

Patricia Jacobs (R) with Jason Ballard, Marion County

Ryan Hensarling, Alligator Creek Land Co., Escambia County

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Upcoming Events

Date	Event, Location, Contact
Aug. 25	**Invasive Species Workshop, Okaloosa County.** 9:00 am to 3:00 pm CT, UF/IFAS Extension Okaloosa County, 3098 Airport Rd, Crestview, FL 32539. Provided by Six Rivers Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area and Florida Land Steward Program. Topics will include cogongrass control, getting assistance, early detection strategies, and more. FDACS CEUs and SAF CFEs approved. $10 covers lunch and materials. *Details and registration at **https://fls-workshop082522.eventbrite.com/**.*
Aug. 30	**Technical Training on Florida's Silviculture Best Management Practices for Water Quality and the Forestry Wildlife Best Management Practices for State Imperiled Species.** 9:30 am to 4:00 pm ET, Florida Forest Service Perry Forestry Station, 618 Plantation Road, Perry, FL. Provided by Florida Forest Service, this is a free technical training 5.0 SAF Cat 1 CFEs are approved for foresters. *Contact **Robin.Holland@FDACS.gov** by August 19 to register. For questions contact Robin Holland at (352) 732-1781.*
Aug. 30-Sept. 1	**2022 Florida Forestry Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show.** Omni Amelia Island Resort, Fernandina Beach, FL Join friends and colleagues for 3 days of networking, continuing education, and celebrating another year in the forest industry. The trade show will feature cutting-edge equipment and service providers. *See **https://community.flforestry.org/** for details and registration.*
Oct. 11-12	**2022 SAF/SFFGS Fall Symposium: "Hot Topics in Prescribed Fire".** UF Stern Learning Center at Austin Cary Forest near Gainesville, FL. This is a cooperative event of the Florida Division Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the University of Florida IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences (SFFGS). Join us for the latest on prescribed fire practice in Florida, fire weather and planning tools, ecosystem restoration, Southern Fire Exchange resources, and more. *For details and registration see **https://2022-saf-sffgs-fall-symposium.eventbrite.com***
Oct. 28	**Florida Land Steward Tour at Sparkleberry Farm, Alachua County.** 9:00 am to 2:00 pm ET. Join us to meet our 2022 Florida Land Stewards of the Year, Bill Black and Denise Matthews at their Sparkleberry Farm property. Topics will include forest habitat restoration and management, prescribed fire, wildlife, invasive species control, and more. This will be a walking tour of reasonable length. $10 fee covers lunch and materials. *Details and registration at **https://fls-tour102822.eventbrite.com***

More events, webinar recordings, news, and information can be found at programs.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-land-steward

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

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