

FLORIDA LAND STEWARD



A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

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Florida Tree Farm Program Announces 2023 Jon Gould Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year: Terry and Howard Putnal

By John Nash, Florida Tree Farm Program President



Terry Putnal (center) with Florida Tree Farm President, John Nash (left) and Chris Demers.



Terry and his father, the late Howard Putnal, at their Madison County Tree Farm in 2021.



The Florida Tree Farm Program is proud to recognize Mr. Terry Putnal and, his father, Howard Putnal (in memoriam) as the 2023 Jon Gould Florida Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. Each year, one of Florida's 1,300 certified Tree Farms is selected for recognition for exhibiting exceptional forest stewardship to protect and improve our forest resources and promoting forest stewardship within their community. The Putnals' tree farm operation exemplifies The American Tree Farm's four critical points of light – Wood, Water, Recreation, and Wildlife.

Howard Putnal originally purchased the land in the early 1980s and it has been a Florida Certified Tree Farm for nearly 40 years. Over 350 of their 493 acres are enrolled in the Florida Tree Farm Program. Howard always aspired to be

the Florida Tree Farmer of the Year, but sadly passed away just over a year ago. Terry Putnal is very proud to manage the property in accordance with his father's vision and honors the management decisions that he and his father developed together. Terry has ensured his father's legacy will continue by confirming that his nephew is familiar with their forest and wildlife management plans. One of Howard's greatest concerns for the property's future was to preserve the headwaters of the cypress tree-laden Norton Creek. Terry respects this wish and included this preservation in his current management plan. In past years, Terry's father planted many sawtooth oaks and other mast-producing trees in this wetland zone for wildlife. Terry

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has continued to follow his father's lead by removing planted pines that adjoin the creek and is allowing the forest to naturally regenerate.

Terry is a wealth of knowledge to his community regarding the appropriate application of herbicides for successful pine establishment and growth. Terry works in close partnership with his Florida Forest Service county foresters, Zach Butler and Jared Beauchamp, to obtain the best and most recent industry information. In addition to managing his own property, Terry operates a business that provides high-quality site preparation, planting, and vegetation management for other landowners. Although it is his livelihood, whenever a landowner asks Terry for information on proper herbicide application, management decisions, or planting techniques, Terry provides the information free of charge because he wants the landowner to be successful. Terry wants to see the best in forestry and contributes to his growing knowledge by being the first to experiment with techniques such as planting seasons, densities, temperatures, methods (e.g., bare-root vs. containerized), and/or herbicide application rates.

Recreationally, Terry allows hunting on the property, but his main interest is vested in the history of the old Florida Cracker Horse and scrub cows. He maintains breeding herds of both breeds and endorsed having the Cracker Horse become the "State Horse" by joining others in a ride to Tallahassee. Not only does he recognize the cultural history and breed's function, but he'll also actively jump on their back to round up stray cattle when moving the herd.

Terry's land management strategy is a great example of how to responsibly use forestry practices "in the right place" to meet economic goals. Guided by his father's passion for forestry, Terry provides a positive impact to fellow forest owners and is very worthy of this honor. Congratulations Terry and Howard Putnal (in memoriam)!



(Left) This wetland portion of the property is a part of the headwaters to Norton Creek and is protected to provide wildlife habitat and water resource benefits. (Right) Right tree in the right place: longleaf pine is the best tree for the higher, sandy portions of the property.

Mass-Timber: A Significant Opportunity for Forest Landowners and Society Overall

By Scott Sager, UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

Wood has been used as a building material for thousands of years, and with good reason – it is commonly available, renewable, provides good structural support, is easy to work with, and is attractive. Up through the 1950s wood was the dominant construction material for nearly all building purposes. Homes, offices and shops, and even warehouses and factories were built primarily of wood. Today, while approximately 92% of US homes are wood-framed, larger structures such as office towers, retail spaces, and apartments are commonly built from concrete, steel, and other non-renewable resources.

Mass-timber is a building technique with the potential to transform how we engage the building industry. While most are familiar with “stick-built” and “post-and-beam” wood construction forms, mass-timber is different. With mass-timber, structural building components are manufactured out of layers of dimensioned lumber. By “sandwiching” multiple pieces of lumber, in multiple layers, often oriented with the grain in perpendicular directions, structural components that are strong and light can be made from smaller pieces of lumber. These components, typically glue-laminated beams and cross-laminated timber panels, are robust enough to serve as the core structure of buildings. Currently the tallest mass-timber structure is 25 stories tall.

What about durability and safety?

Historically, concerns about building with wood have centered on durability and safety – fire, insects and rot from fungus. There are also concerns about the ability of wooden structures to withstand strong storms and other natural disasters.

Mass-timber components are engineered to address all of these issues, and modern design practices work to overcome these limitations. To address fire concerns, mass-timber components are structurally designed with a sacrificial “char layer”



– an outside envelope of extra wood material that may be consumed in a fire, but serves to insulate the interior of the beam so it remains structurally-sound. To minimize insect and rot potential, mass-timber components are not used on the building exterior where they would be exposed to moisture, but within the “building envelope” of conditioned space, where they are kept at the same relatively low-humidity that occupants prefer.

Environmental sustainability

Mass-timber has many advantages over concrete and steel construction, the most significant being its environmental sustainability. Not only is wood renewable, but it takes much less energy to produce structural components from wood than comparable concrete and steel products. As such, wood construction produces less greenhouse gas emissions than other materials. Furthermore, approximately 50% of wood is carbon that the tree pulled from the atmosphere during its life-span. Wood construction components actually store greenhouse gas, reducing their concentration in the atmosphere.

Economic sustainability and social benefits

Beyond environmental sustainability, mass-timber is economically and socially sustainable for the region. In Florida alone, forestry is the largest agricultural sector, and an increased demand for this domestically produced material can be a big benefit for rural communities. Mass-timber is also a more efficient and less disruptive construction material. While it requires more up-front planning and design, it is faster to assemble and has less impact on the construction site than concrete and steel. Currently mass-timber construction is comparable in cost to other construction methods, but it is expected to become cheaper as contractors become more familiar with its use.

Lastly, for the end-user, wood produces a more welcoming, inviting, productive environment for building occupants. Wood is “biophilic” – meaning we are comfortable with wood, and find it attractive, which leads to more comfortable occupants.

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Longer timber rotations like this are a good fit with wildlife habitat objectives.

Current use and wood markets

Mass-timber has become widely accepted in Europe, and is increasingly common in the Pacific-Northwest region of the U.S. It is only now gaining traction in the Southeast. Florida currently has two completed mass-timber structures: an office complex in Clermont and a residence in Miami. As this form of construction becomes more common, forest landowners can expect to see increased interest from sawmills which supply the boards used in mass-timber components. Any increase in the demand for wood incentivizes reforestation and helps us all in our efforts to sustain the forests we work in and enjoy.

While the wood market is complicated, this increased demand for lumber could

shift silvicultural practices in the region. Longer rotations would be needed to allow trees to grow into bigger chip-n-saw and sawtimber products, and we could also see a preference for wood from slash and longleaf pine species, which are often sought for lumber production. Mass-timber is a significant opportunity for all involved. It is a more environmentally- and economically-resilient form of construction, faster to assemble, and produces a more welcoming built environment. Historical concerns about durability and safety have largely been addressed through new construction components and methods. These benefits are coupled with new incentives for more mature forests of pine species desirable for wildlife habitat and recreation alike.

References

Court, Christa D., A.W. Hodges, and M. Rahamani. 2016. Economic contributions of the forest industry and forest-based recreation in Florida in 2016. FE1051. Gainesville: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FE1051>

National Association of Home Builders (2022, July 22). The Share of Wood-Framed Homes Increased in 2021. Eye on Housing. Retrieved June 20, 2022, from <https://eyeonhousing.org/2022/07/the-share-of-wood-framed-homes-increased-in-2021>

USDA Forest Service (2022, July 29). World's tallest timber building opens. Retrieved June 20, 2022, from <https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/delivering-mission/apply/worlds-tallest-timber-building-opens>

Check out the Online Forest Landowner Academy

Are you new to forestry and land management? Have you recently purchased or inherited land and wondering what to do next? Hard to fit travel for tours and workshops in your busy schedule? Need a course in a self-paced format that you can take on your own time? The Forest Landowner Academy is for you!

Seven course modules cover a variety of topics on understanding your forest resources, developing your management

plan, timber management, marketing forest products, other forest enterprises such as pine straw and hunting leases, wildlife management, and planning for the future.

The course is self-paced. Each module includes pre-recorded content from the field or virtual classroom, supplemental reading material, and an assessment where you can apply what you've learned to your land or situation. The cost of the course is \$150. Those

completing the course will earn a University of Florida Certificate.

For more information and to enroll in the Forest Landowner Academy visit the course page at <https://ifas-sfrc-for.catalog.instructure.com/courses/for-fla>

For more information, contact: Chris Demers at cdemers@ufl.edu, (352) 846-2375 or Dr. Michael Andreu, mandreu@ufl.edu

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/>.

Emergency Order Issued to Protect against Possible Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in White-tailed Deer in North Florida

Following confirmation of a positive test sample for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Holmes County, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) have implemented management actions and an executive order to protect against the possible spread of CWD.

The FWC and its agency partners take CWD very seriously and have implemented a comprehensive response plan. As part of the plan, the FWC will collect samples from specific established zones to further assess the spread of the disease. The results from this initial sampling effort will inform resource managers so they can respond with appropriate

management strategies. Read more details about this issue at the FWC's website. <https://myfwc.com/news/all-news/cwd-2-623/>



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.

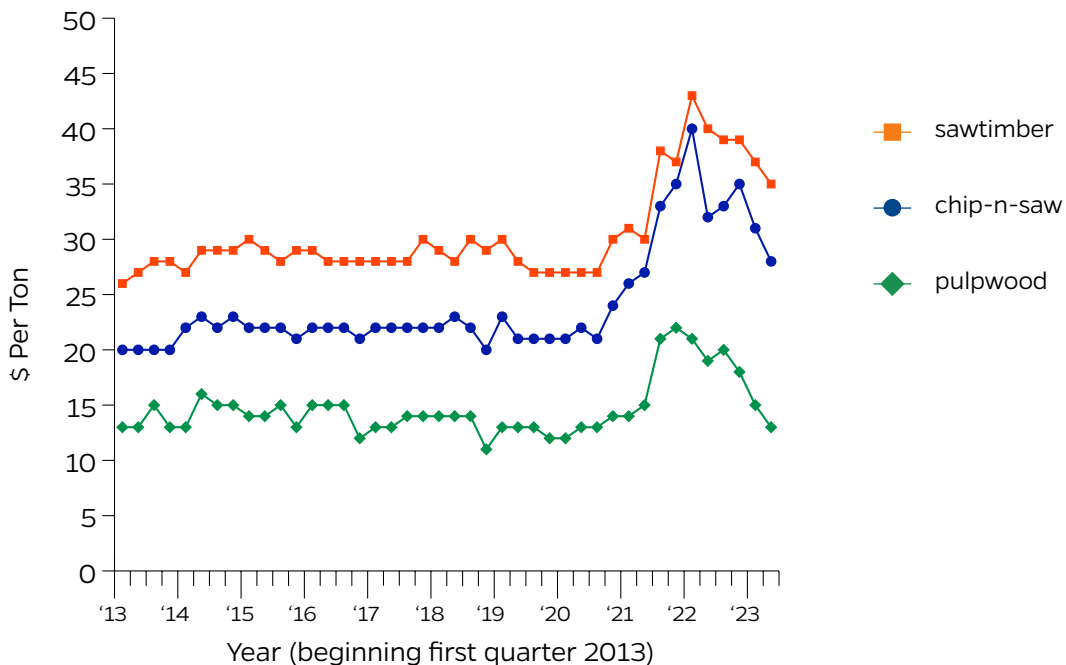
Average stumpage prices for the three major products in Florida, as reported in the **2nd Quarter 2023** Timber Mart-South report were:

Florida Stumpage Prices	
Pine pulpwood:	\$13/ton, ↓ from 1 st Qtr. 2023
Pine C-N-S:	\$28/ton, ↓
Pine sawtimber:	\$35/ton, ↓

Trend Report

Average stumpage prices again decreased for all major timber products in the second quarter of 2023, attributable to economic conditions that affected most product markets. Pine pulpwood prices saw the most significant decline with the average price across the region falling below \$8/ton. Market conditions for solid wood products were again mixed as they were in the first quarter, with residential housing starts down but investments in home improvements up. Precipitation levels were normal to above normal across the region this quarter with severe weather events on the increase. Record high temperatures above 100 degrees are exacerbating dry conditions in some areas to our west from Mississippi to Texas. Wildfire activity has thankfully been low in the region so far this season.

Average Pine Stumpage Prices for Florida (\$/Ton)
1st Qtr 2013 through 2nd Qtr 2023



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.treefarmssystem.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.



Brooks Brandewie (right) with Ariel Sewell, Walton County



Gary Harrison, Santa Rosa County



Kent Simmons, Escambia County



Mike Durant, Escambia County



Russell and Ross Price, Escambia County



Thomas Currie, Putnam County

Upcoming Events

Date	Event, Location, Contact
Aug 24	Hurricane Preparation & Recovery Webinar: Recovering from the Storm. 2:00 to 3:00 pm ET. Provided by UF/IFAS Florida Land Steward Program, this webinar will discuss key assistance contacts and strategies to minimize timber losses to timber within a week and months after a hurricane. This will be a TEAMS webinar. <i>Details and registration at https://tinylink.net/kQDtx</i>
Aug 29-31	2023 Florida Forestry Association Annual Meeting & Trade Show: “Stronger Together. 100th Anniversary Celebration.” Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, Miramar Beach, FL. Along with the usual gathering and networking opportunities, educational session topics will include history of forestry regulations, succession planning, the climate smart agriculture initiative, challenges of the logging business, strategies to navigate generational differences, forest health, mass timber construction, and more. This meeting will also include another “Women of Forestry” networking brunch. <i>Details and registration at https://community.flforestry.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?alias=AnnualMeeting</i>
Sept 21	Florida Land Steward Tour at Bob and Betsy Reid’s Little Creek Woods, Walton County. 9:00 am to 3:00 pm CT, Little Creek Woods in Walton County. Provided by Florida Land Steward Program and partners. Join us for a field tour at Little Creek Woods in the morning. Topics will include timber management, longleaf pine habitat restoration, storm resilience, wildlife management, planning for future conservation, and more. Lunch and a Forestry Open House will follow the tour at UF/IFAS Extension Walton County office. \$15 covers lunch and materials. Vendor fee is \$20. <i>Details and registration at https://fls-tour092123.eventbrite.com. Contact Ian Stone for more information, ian.stone@ufl.edu, (850) 892-8172.</i>
Oct 19-20	Gulf Partnership Conference 2023. Holiday Inn Oceanfront Resort at Pensacola Beach, FL. Land trust leaders, natural resource managers, government officials, landowners, funders, and anyone involved in the Gulf Coast region’s public and private land conservation are invited to this event for learning, exploring, networking, and re-energizing with fellow practitioners across the Gulf region. <i>Details and registration are at https://gulfpartnership.org/conference/. For more information contact Vance Crain, Executive Director, info@gulfpartnership.org</i>
Oct 27	Florida Land Steward Tour at Stephen and Danna Matheny Property, 2023 Florida Land Stewards of the Year. 9:00 am 2:00 pm ET. Provided by UF/IFAS Florida Land Steward Program. Join us for a tour, meet these exemplary land stewards and network with landowners, foresters, and natural resource professionals. Topics include upland pine habitat restoration, wildlife management, longleaf pine regeneration, prescribed burning, connecting to assistance, and more. \$15 fee covers lunch and materials. <i>Details and registration at https://fls-tour102723.eventbrite.com. Contact Chris Demers for more information, cdemers@ufl.edu, (352) 846-2375.</i>

More events, webinars, 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, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Florida Tree Farm Program:

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