
The Florida Forest Steward

A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

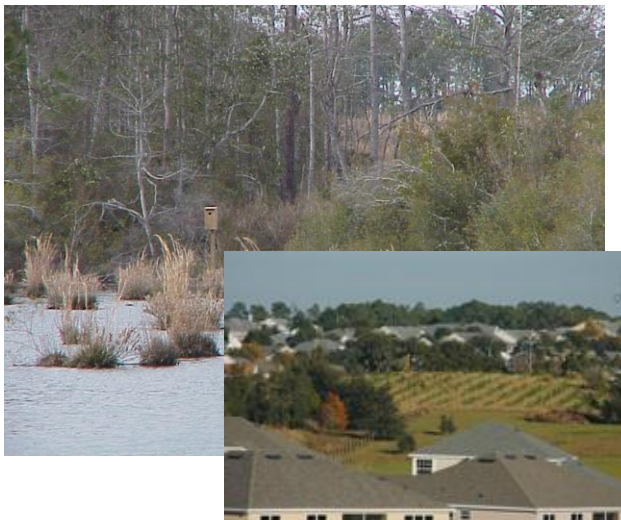


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OUTTA THE WOODS: How will land use changes in the coming decades impact wildlife habitat?

What can be done about it?

Florida Forest Stewardship Program Partner Agencies Seek Your Input

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, and University of Florida/IFAS Cooperative Extension Service have been supporting the natural resource management and conservation efforts of private landowners for many years. They provide technical and/or financial assistance to manage forests, wildlife, and other natural resources by developing land management and conservation plans and disseminating technical information through newsletters, websites, field days, personal contacts and other means. To enhance program efficiency, reduce costs, and deliver more consistent and effective information, Florida's natural resource agencies are developing a more unified program that will incorporate all components of the existing programs. They will realize this by developing a coordinated planning framework (i.e., combining Forest Stewardship and Conservation Plans), publishing a common



newsletter, website, and other printed materials, and conducting joint field days.

As the partner agencies will incorporate all the current individual programs, we are seeking your preferences for a new cooperative program title. The title should be attractive to a diverse array of landowners (agricultural, forest and otherwise) and be applicable statewide. Thank you very much for your input.

Access the survey at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/85YXSYG>

OUTTA THE WOODS: What's at Stake for Florida's Wildlife in 50 Years?

by Tony Young, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) new report, entitled "Wildlife 2060: What's at stake for Florida?", is based on a study by 1000 Friends of Florida - a nonprofit organization that monitors our state's growth. The FWC report contains some pretty alarming things we wildlife enthusiasts need to be aware of.

Florida has the fourth-highest population in the country at 18 million, and this report predicts that by the year 2060, it will double to 36 million. Consequently, an estimated 7 million of the state's 34 million total acres will be converted from natural or rural lands to urban uses during the next 50 years. Seven million acres is an area the size of the entire state of Vermont.

Black bear and wild turkey habitats may decrease by 2 million acres by 2060. For Florida's more than 200,000 deer hunters,

this estimated loss of 2.7 million acres of native habitat could result in at least 60,000 fewer deer in Florida. On top of that, as much as 25 percent of the private lands that provide most of the hunting leases could disappear by 2060 due to development. Today, the price of hunting leases on private land is in the range of \$5 to \$20 per acre, depending on the size of the property and quality of the habitat for the target species. If projected changes in land use transpire, we can expect those costs to increase significantly by 2060.

Florida boasts one of the largest wildlife management area systems in the country at almost 6 million acres, but what's going to happen to it in 50 years? It will undoubtedly be impacted by encroaching development. Many of Florida's 50,000 public-land hunters already feel the squeeze and complain of areas being overcrowded. How crowded are they going to be when our population doubles?

So what can we do about it? One option is for the state to buy more conservation land. Revenue for this is being generated through certain taxes. Since 1972, 30 Florida counties have voted to tax themselves in the form of real estate "doc stamps," which has generated more than \$2 billion to purchase nearly 375,000 acres of conservation lands. However, this state simply can't afford to purchase and manage all the land that it wants protected and many private landowners aren't interested in that option either. So State and Federal agencies are, and will continue to, assist property owners to manage their lands to benefit wildlife through voluntary technical and financial assistance programs.

Growth planning will be essential to minimize the effects of habitat fragmentation and ensure that large areas of conservation lands and wetlands are connected to other public and private natural landscapes. The report estimates that 2 million of the 7 million acres projected to be lost to development by 2060 lie within a mile of existing public conservation lands. This could create “islands” of natural habitat that will isolate wildlife populations from each other. This will have a negative impact on species that require vast tracts of undisturbed land to survive. Fragmentation also will make prescribed burning, a management technique essential for maintaining quality wildlife habitat, even more difficult. By using smart-growth initiatives and planning, we can encourage development that is sensitive to the natural infrastructure, versus haphazard urban sprawl.

Proactive strategies are best adopted at the local level and include acquiring and protecting large parcels of conservation lands, promoting compatible agriculture, like cattle ranches and timber farms (because they provide wildlife habitat), developing conservation easements, creating tax incentives for conservation and managing urban development with large-scale, land-use planning in mind.

You can get involved in advocating for wise land-use decisions in your community to minimize negative impacts to wildlife. Does your city or county have a local land-acquisition program? Are the roads being designed and situated to accommodate wildlife? Does your community view conserving its green infrastructure and wetlands with the same importance as maintaining its roads, buildings and bridges? Are you managing wildlife habitat on your own property?

Most landowners already consider wildlife in the management of their properties but if you have questions or would like further assistance, please contact a private lands wildlife biologist located near you (http://www.myfwc.com/CONSERVATION/ConservationYou_LAP_index.htm).

The full report “Wildlife 2060: What’s at stake for Florida?” is online at: http://myfwc.com/CONSERVATION/FWC2060_index.htm. We might not be able to slow down growth in our state, but I encourage you to join the FWC and other organizations working together to find solutions to make a brighter future for our wildlife.

Tony Young is the media relations coordinator for the FWC’s Division of Hunting and Game Management. You can reach him with questions about hunting at Tony.Young@MyFWC.com.

Protection of State’s Water Quality during Forestry Operations Remains a High Priority

By Roy Lima, Florida Division of Forestry

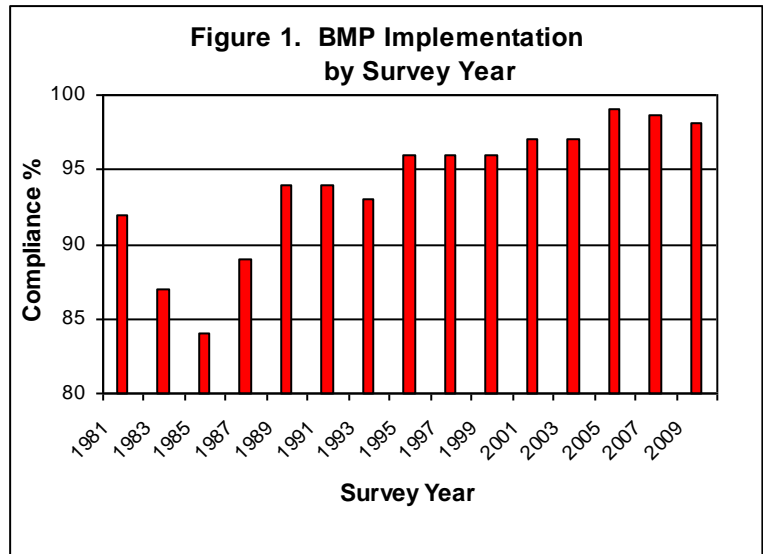
Florida’s Silviculture Best Management Practices (BMPs) are an established set of practices designed to meet the necessary minimum standards for protecting and maintaining the state’s water quality along with certain wildlife habitat during silviculture (forestry) activities. When used as prescribed they provide a balance between the use of forest resources and natural resource protection. Additionally, silviculture BMPs apply only to bona fide silviculture activities.

Protecting water quality during forestry operations remains a high priority for foresters, land managers, loggers, and silviculture contractors according to the 2009 statewide survey of forestry BMP implementation in Florida. The survey showed a 98% implementation rate.

Florida's silviculture BMP Program is directed primarily at preventing nonpoint source pollution associated with forestry operations. The program was initiated with the development of the state's first Silviculture BMP Manual in 1979. The Florida Division of Forestry (DOF) is the agency responsible for development, implementation, and monitoring of Silviculture BMPs throughout the state.

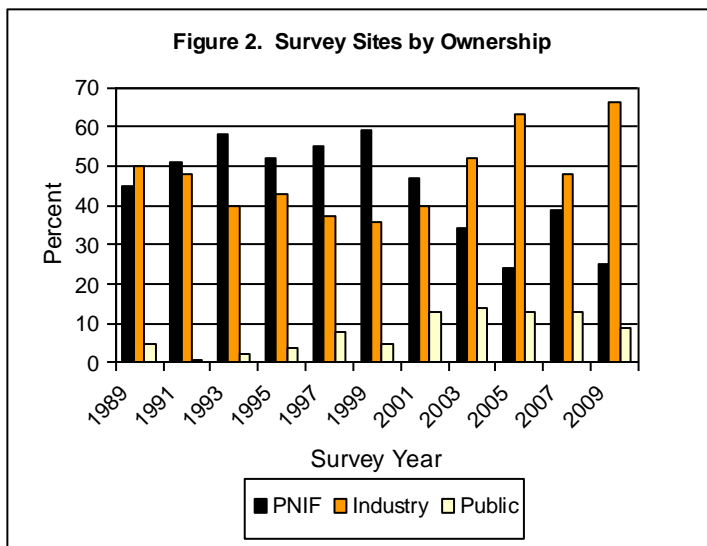
Two professionally trained BMP foresters are strategically located in Florida to respond to any BMP concerns, and are available to conduct on-site BMP courtesy checks as needed. BMP forester Cathy Hardin is located at the Division's Bonifay Forestry Station and is responsible for implementation training and site inspections throughout the panhandle from Escambia County to Madison/Taylor County. BMP forester Robin Holland is located at the Sharpes Ferry Office in Ocala and covers northeast Florida from Marion County north to Nassau County, as well as south Florida.

Since 1981, the Division has monitored forestry operations for BMP implementation, by conducting biennial implementation surveys, statewide. Implementation levels in Surveys over the years illustrate a strong commitment on the part of Florida's forestry community to protect the state's natural water resources (Figure 1).



Implementation of silviculture BMPs in Florida is primarily accomplished under an educational format, designed to transfer BMP technology to forest practitioners through workshops and field demonstrations. The Implementation program is ongoing, with workshops routinely provided upon request, or as deemed necessary based on Survey results. Currently, DOF personnel conduct 25 to 30 workshops annually, involving more than 750 participants per year. In addition, the DOF provides BMP training directly to loggers through the Florida Forestry Association's *Master Logger* Program and through the Southeastern Wood Producers Association. To date, approximately 494 loggers have become *Master Loggers*, of which 35 have obtained *Master Logger Plus* status. A total of 758 Master Loggers have completed an additional six-hour BMP Continuing Education Course.

The 2009 BMP Implementation Survey evaluated 4,127 practices on 185 sites in 37 Florida counties. Of the 185 sites evaluated, 47 were on private non-industrial forestland, 122 were found on industrial land and 16 occurred on public lands (Figure 2).



The highest overall implementation level among land ownerships was on industry lands at 98.9%, with private non-industrial lands at 97.8% and public ownerships at 97.4%.

The overall implementation rate for individual sites ranged from 79% to 100% with an average of 98.1%. One hundred and forty-eight of the 185 survey sites were found in full implementation (100%)

of all applicable BMPs. Thirty sites scored an overall compliance of 90 to 99% and six sites scored between 80-89%. One site scored below 80%.

The 2009 Survey showed a continuing high implementation rate with silviculture BMPs in Florida. This is attributed to the distribution of over 55,000 Silviculture BMP Manuals since 1993, to the cooperative educational outreach to the forestry community through DOF workshops and demonstrations, and to the quality of forest landowners, loggers, and professional foresters that make up the state's forestry community.

NOTE: The 2009 Implementation Survey Report is a detailed report of compliance levels in all 14 BMP categories and is available from the Division of Forestry by phone (850) 414-9934 or by E-mail contact: limar@doacs.state.fl.us



Congratulations Certified Forest Stewards and Tree Farmers!



George Fletcher, Suwannee County



**Doug and Bill Carmichael,
Suwannee County**



Bubba Fouraker, Suwannee County



**Kent Kirkland and son, Jake,
Forest Stewards, Baker County**



**Ray Thorton with Ray Adams,
Sumter County**



**Caudel Rhoden,
Forest Steward, Baker County**

Not Shown:

Canaan Ranch

Forest Stewards, Gilchrist County

Jean Wonser

Forest Steward, Gilchrist County

Mike Redfearn

Forest Steward, Putnam County

Not Shown:

Edwin and Joan McAlpin

Forest Stewards, Gilchrist County

Bill Baker

Forest Steward, Putnam County

MAG Properties, Inc.

Tree Farmer, Volusia County

Not Shown:

Don LeFils

Tree Farmer, Volusia County

Lunsford Brothers

Tree Farmer, Volusia County

Mary Ellen Benedict

Tree Farmer, Putnam County

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

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

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

Forest Stewardship Workshop/Hike:

Tree/Plant Identification for Forestland Owners



May 20, 2010; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Eastern Time;
Morningside Nature Center,
3540 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32641
(directions on back).



This program will give landowners an opportunity to learn to identify some of the tree, shrub and herbaceous species on their forest properties. We'll focus mostly on sandhill and flatwoods species, identifying live specimens in the field. We will also learn about how some of these plants are used by wildlife and/or the role they play within the larger plant community and habitat. This will be a walking event so please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Ticks may be plentiful so long pants and sleeves are strongly suggested. A water cooler is on site – bring a water bottle if you wish to take water to the field. Tick repellent will be available but if you prefer a particular brand bring it.

Agenda:

9:00 am	Sign-in, meet and greet at Morningside Nature Center, picnic area pavilion
9:15	Welcome and Introduction: Plant ID Primer , <i>Chris Demers, Dr. Alan Long, UF-IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) and Geoff Parks, Gainesville Nature Operations</i>
10:00	Tree / Plant ID Hike in the Field , <i>Geoff Parks and Dr. Alan Long</i>
12:00 pm	Lunch (Thanks Sponsors!)
1:00	Tree / Plant ID Hike in the Field , <i>Geoff Parks and Dr. Alan Long</i>
3:00	Wrap up, Evaluations

Register: This program is free but pre-registration is required. **Contact Chris Demers at (352) 846-2375 or cdemers@ufl.edu to register.** Lunch will be provided but BYO coffee if you need it. **Attendance will be limited so please register soon!** Please share this announcement with others who may be interested.



Funding for Florida's Forest Stewardship Program is provided by the USDA Forest Service through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry and a grant from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

-We'll meet at 9:00 am ET in the picnic area pavilion-



-We'll meet at 9:00 am ET in the picnic area pavilion-

Questions about this or other Forest Stewardship Program activities can be directed to Chris Demers at (352) 846-2375, or by email at cdemers@ufl.edu. For more Forest Stewardship information and events see the Florida Forestry Information Web site at:

http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida_forestry_information/index.html

Planning for the Future of Your Family's Land Seminars

The Conservation Trust for Florida (CTF), University of Florida IFAS Extension and Florida's Forest Stewardship Program offer a series of interactive seminars for landowners to learn practical steps for passing their land from one generation to the next.

Two dates and locations set:

May 11, 2010; 9:00 am - 2:30 pm ET

Hillsborough Community College Trinkle Center, Plant City, FL 33563.

Cost is \$15 per person. More information and registration online at <http://pfyfl.eventbrite.com/>

Contact Rob Northrop, UF-IFAS Hillsborough County Extension, (813) 744-5519 x106, northrop@ufl.edu

June 10, 2010; 9:00 am - 2:30 pm ET

Columbia County Extension Office, Lake City, FL 32025.

Cost is \$15 per person. More information and registration online at <http://pfyfl2.eventbrite.com/>

Contact Derek Barber, UF-IFAS Columbia County Extension, (386)752-5384, dlbarber@ufl.edu

Many landowners are faced with the challenge of finding ways to provide for their retirement and for their heirs, while insuring that their land is kept in the family for future generations. Farmers, foresters and ranchers tend to have a lot of value sitting in real estate with limited revenue to support all of one's family members. Furthermore, there is often pressure to sell off land to development. Often family members are not certain if or how they may participate in the future management of their land. The *Planning for the Future of Your Family's Land Seminars* are designed to help landowners begin discussions with their family regarding long term hopes and goals for their property and to understand options for keeping land in agriculture and/or forest production.



Questions about this program can be directed to:

Conservation Trust for Florida, (352) 466-1178, ellen@conserveflorida.org or

Chris Demers, UF-IFAS School of Forest Resources & Conservation, (352) 846-2375, cdemers@ufl.edu



40th Annual Spring Symposium

***SUSTAINING FORESTS, FISHERIES, AND AQUATIC
RESOURCES IN A CHANGING WORLD***

June 2-3, 2010

Paramount Plaza Hotel, 2900 SW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32608

Changing land use patterns due to clearing for agriculture, population growth, and economic forces have led to a 25% decline in forest area in Florida and much of the Southeast since the 1930's, threatening the ecological, economic and social values of our land and water resources. At the 40th Annual SAF/SFRC Spring Symposium leading experts from around the country will discuss a wide spectrum of issues related to sustaining our forest and aquatic resources. The Symposium will provide ideas, tools and information for virtually all of Florida's forest land owners and managers.

Topics and Speakers

Natural Resources Sustainability: Operating at the Speed of Need, Carlton Owen, President & CEO, US Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc., Greenville, SC

National Criteria for Forest Sustainability: Where Do We Stand? Guy Robertson, Sustainability Program Leader, US Forest Service Research, Washington, DC

The Expanding Role of Marine Aquaculture and Fisheries Enhancement in Sustainable Seafood, Kenneth Leber, Sr Scientist & Director, Center for Fisheries Enhancement, Mote Marine Lab, Sarasota
Family Landowners are Essential for Sustainable Forestry in the US, Keith Argow, President, National Woodland Owners Association, Vienna, VA

SERPPAS Roles in Regional Sustainability Issues, Patrick Leonard, Assistant Regional Director Ecological Services, Southeast Region, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Atlanta, GA

Linking Science and Management in Sustainable Resource Management: Reflections on Two Long-term Oregon Programs; John Hayes, Chair, Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville

Regional and State-wide Sustainability of Fisheries and Aquatic Systems: Challenges and Opportunities; Gil McRae, Director, Fish & Wildlife Research Institute, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Will Florida's Forests Sustain Renewable Energy Goals? Jarek Nowak, Forest Utilization Specialist, Florida Division of Forestry, Tallahassee

Florida's Pine Plantation Resource - A Disappearing Act? John Morris, Vice-President, Foley Timber & Land, Perry, FL

Report on the Conversation on Conservation & the Importance of Working Forests, Eric Draper, Executive Director, Audubon of Florida, Tallahassee, FL

Producing More Wood on Less Land through Genetics and Biotechnology, Jeff Wright, ArborGen, Summerville, SC

A New Look at Uneven-aged Management as a Tool for Sustainable Forests, Dale Brockway, US Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Auburn, AL

Continuing Education Credit - 7 SAF Category 1 Continuing Forestry Education credit hours.

More Information and Registration: UF/SFRC website: <http://sfrc.ifas.ufl.edu/events.html>



Timber Price Update

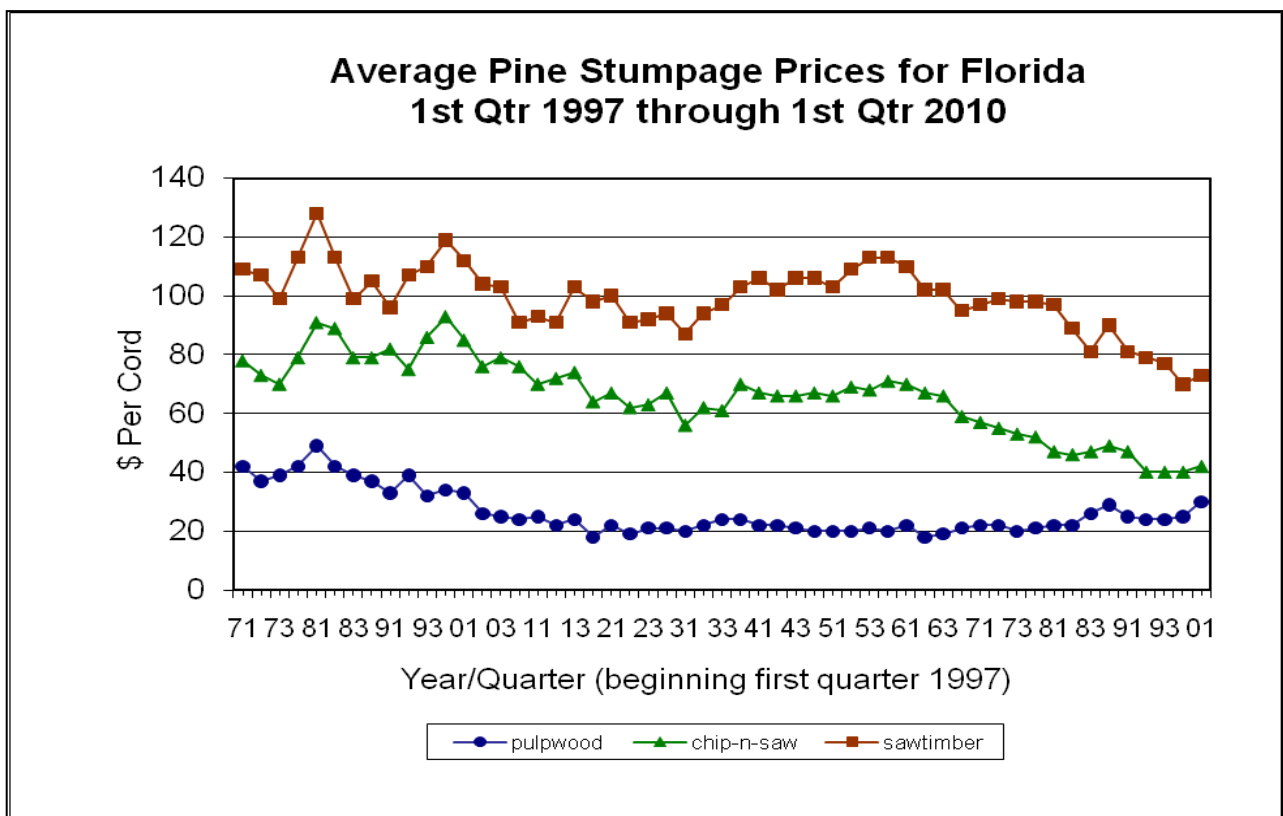
The timber pricing information below is useful for observing trends over time, but does not necessarily reflect current conditions at a particular location. Landowners considering a timber sale are advised to solicit the services of a consulting forester to obtain current local market conditions. Note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

Stumpage price ranges reported across Florida in the **1st Quarter 2010** Timber Mart-South (TMS) report were:

- Pine pulpwood: \$21 - \$41/cord (\$8 - \$15/ton), ↑ (from average 4th Quarter 2009 prices)
- Pine C-N-S: \$28 - \$58/cord (\$10 - \$22/ton), ↑
- Pine sawtimber: \$55 - \$88/cord (\$21 - \$33/ton), ↑
- Pine plylogs: \$60 - \$105/cord (\$23 - \$39/ton), ↓
- Pine power poles: \$115 - \$158/cord (\$43 - \$59/ton), ↑
- Hardwood pulpwood: \$15 - \$40/cord (\$5 - \$14/ton), ↑

Trend Report

Stumpage prices for most products, on average, seem to be on the rebound. For the first time in over a year prices are up for all the major products, with pulpwood prices seeing the greatest increase. Some of this was likely attributable to wet weather but indicators for pine sawtimber are improving slowly.



University of Florida
 School of Forest Resources and Conservation
 PO Box 110410
 Gainesville, FL 32611-0410

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UPCOMING EVENTS	
Date	Event, Location, Contacts
May 11	<i>Planning for the Future of Your Family's Land</i> , 9:00 am - 2:30 pm, Hillsborough Community College Trinkle Center, Plant City, FL. Cost is \$15 per person. More information and registration online at http://pfyfl.eventbrite.com/ .
May 20	<i>Forest Stewardship Workshop / Hike: Tree / Plant Identification for Forestland Owners</i> , 9:00 am - 3:30 pm ET. Morningside Nature Center, 3540 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32641. This program is free, lunch provided, pre-registration is required. Contact Chris Demers at (352) 846-2375 or cdemers@ufl.edu to register.
June 2-3	<i>40th Annual SAF/SFRC Spring Symposium: Sustaining Forests, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in a Changing World</i> ; Paramount Plaza Hotel, 2900 SW 13th St., Gainesville, Florida 32608. See http://sfrc.ufl.edu/events.html for more info and registration.
June 10	<i>Planning for the Future of Your Family's Land</i> , 9:00 am - 2:30 pm, Columbia County Extension Office, Lake City, FL. Cost is \$15 per person. More information and registration online at http://pfyfl2.eventbrite.com/ .
July 31	<i>Wildlife Expo</i> , UF-IFAS West Florida REC, Milton Campus. For more info, contact Robin Vickers at (850) 983-5216 x 113 or rvickers@ufl.edu
July 31- August 1	<i>Florida Small Farms & Alternative Enterprises Conference</i> , Kissimmee FL. See http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/floridasmallfarmsconference/2010/index.shtml for more info.
For more information and events about Florida's Forest Stewardship Program and forest management visit: www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida_forestry_information/index.html	
The Florida Forest Steward is a University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Florida Division of Forestry and Florida Tree Farm joint project: <i>Chris Demers</i> (editor), School of Forest Resources & Conservation, UF, P.O. Box 110410, Gainesville, FL 32611-0410, (352) 846-2375, cdemers@ufl.edu <i>Dr. Alan Long</i> (co-editor), School of Forest Resources & Conservation, UF, (352) 846-0891, ajl2@ufl.edu <i>Tony Grossman</i> (co-editor), Florida Division of Forestry, 3125 Conner Blvd, Room R2, Tallahassee, FL 32699-1650, (850) 414-9907, grossma@doacs.state.fl.us <i>Chris Wynn</i> (co-editor), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 South Meridian Street, Farris Bryant Building, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600, (850) 488-3831, Chris.Wynn@MyFWC.com <i>Jon Gould</i> (co-editor), Florida Tree Farm Committee, 4923 Windwood Circle, Birmingham, AL 35242, (205) 991-9435, gouldjh@bellsouth.net <i>Bill Giuliano</i> (co-editor), Department of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, UF, PO Box 110430, Gainesville, FL 32611-0430, (352) 846-0575, docg@ufl.edu .	