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# The Florida Forest Steward

A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

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Volume 17, No. 2

Summer - Fall 2010

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***Prescribed fire research and education were among Alan Long's many contributions to Florida Forests***

## Alan Long Retires after 24 years of Service to Florida's Forests, Landowners and Professionals

By Chris Demers

This issue of the Florida Forest Steward is dedicated to Dr. Alan Long who, among many other things, has been involved in leading Florida's Forest Stewardship Program outreach activities since 1993. When I walked into Alan Long's office 14 or so years ago inquiring about a job opportunity, little did I know that I was talking to one of the greats among mentors, teachers, leaders, thinkers and downright good people of the world's forestry community. It didn't take long to learn this and I think anyone who has spent any time with Alan over his productive career would probably agree with that assessment.

A California native, Alan earned his BS and MS degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, and a PhD from North Carolina State University. After working as a forest scientist with Weyerhaeuser in Washington, Oregon and Indonesia, Alan followed a lead from Mary Duryea, a colleague (and the person who started UF's Forest



Stewardship Program in 1990), to apply for a faculty position at the UF-IFAS School of Forest Resources & Conservation (SFRC) in 1986.

Alan's honors page on the SFRC Web site gives some testimony that his career in Florida has been rich and rewarding. Alan has had responsibilities in instruction, student advising, extension, and management of Austin Cary Memorial Forest, the University of Florida's 2,040-acre property used by SFRC as an outdoor teaching facility for many classes as well as other UF and community college courses. His teaching responsibilities included wildland fire, forest operations, and plant identification. In extension he provided statewide leadership in programs focused on wildland-urban interface issues, forest management opportunities for nonindustrial private forest landowners, agroforestry, and continuing education for professionals. Alan's research interests include fire management, reforestation systems, and silviculture of young forests. He has been and continues to be an active member of the Florida Forestry Association (FFA) and Society of American Foresters (SAF), holding several leadership positions, including that of Chair for the annual SAF/SFRC Spring Symposium for the last 12 years.

In addition to spending some more quality time with his wife, kids and grandkids, Alan will still be active in FFA and SAF and continue with his Continuing Education Coordinator duties for Florida. And what would life be without setting the woods on fire every now and then? I know he'll put his parting gift from Dr. Leda Kobziar - a new drip torch - to good use.

Alan, on behalf of the many people and landscapes that have benefited from your expertise, ideas and thoughtful direction,

THANK YOU  
for all of your  
service to  
Florida's forests,  
landowners and  
professionals!



## **Dr. Michael Andreu Moving to Gainesville**

By Chris Demers

By now you may be wondering who is going to continue the projects that Alan is leaving. The answer, at least in part, is Dr. Michael Andreu. Some of you in the west-central part of the state have likely had some interaction with Michael over the last several years. He has been serving as the forestry faculty at the UF-IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center at Plant City, teaching the forest management curriculum, conducting graduate research and managing an extension program. As a part of his extension projects, he is co-coordinator of the Tampa Bay Watershed Forest Working Group that is addressing questions of how to manage forests in the midst of rapid urbanization. He also has ongoing research interests in the areas of sustainable forest management, quantification of ecosystem services and silviculture.



Michael is moving to Gainesville to take on some of the teaching, research and extension responsibilities that Alan Long held, including that of Principal Investigator of UF's Forest Stewardship Program.

You can get in touch with Michael at (352) 846-0355, [mandreu@ufl.edu](mailto:mandreu@ufl.edu).

**Introducing Dr.  
Emma Willcox,  
Regional Wildlife and  
Natural Resources  
Extension Agent**

By Emma Willcox

My name is Emma Willcox and I am the new Regional Specialized Agent in Wildlife with the UF-IFAS Cooperative Extension Service. I have a split position with 50% responsibility for extension activities in Levy, Dixie, and Gilchrist counties and 50% responsibility statewide. While my extension programs are in development, I will be working broadly to help private landowners integrate wildlife and habitat management with ongoing agricultural and forestry activities, as well as assisting smaller property owners with their wildlife related needs.

I was raised in the southwest of England and completed my BS and MS degrees in Cardiff, Wales and Canterbury, England. I have a diverse background in wildlife and habitat management and a keen interest in working with rural landowners. After a stint working with local people and agencies in and around a national park in Tanzania, East Africa I moved to Gainesville to complete my PhD, which examined the effects of prescribed burning and roller-chopping on vegetation, birds, and insects in south Florida pine flatwoods. While conducting my research, I met many Floridians with a wide range of questions, concerns and interests in Florida's wildlife, its management, and conservation. This reinforced my belief that extension can play a vital role in society whether informing farmers about the growth of willow as an alternative enterprise and wildlife habitat in Wales, working with ranchers in Florida to



integrate wildlife management into agricultural operations, or helping groups of Tanzanians establish microfinance groups that promote conservation-compatible enterprises. Recently, I was privileged to secure this position with UF IFAS Cooperative Extension and I look forward to serving and assisting you so that we can become better stewards of Florida's lands and wildlife.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the Levy County Extension office with any questions, comments, or suggestions: (352) 486-5131 or ewillcox@ufl.edu.

**Wood to Energy Economic Study  
Completed**

By Jarek Nowak, Florida Division of  
Forestry

In 2008, the Florida Legislature passed legislation requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection, to conduct an economic impact analysis on the effects of granting financial incentives to energy producers who use woody biomass as fuel, including an analysis of the effects on wood supply and prices and impacts on current markets and forest resource sustainability.

The University of Florida's School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) and the Food and Resource Economics Department (FRED) were contracted to complete the needed analyses and prepare detailed technical reports. These studies focused on the use of woody biomass fuels for electrical generation and evaluated the potential for Florida's private timberland contributions



to supplying biomass feedstocks under varying scenarios.

The study conducted by the FRED analyzed the economic impacts in the state from expanded use of woody biomass as a feedstock for energy production under selected policies and incentives. This study concluded that financial incentives such as renewable energy production tax credits and subsidies for forestry biomass producers would increase state gross domestic product, employment and forest sector output while reducing fossil fuel imports, provided feedstock availability can be secured. The existing wood products manufacturing sector would face higher competition for timber products resulting in higher prices for raw material, while timberland owners would benefit from higher timber prices.

The study conducted by the SFRC utilized the Subregional Timber Supply model to analyze woody biomass demand, supply and timber prices resulting from implementation of a hypothetical renewable portfolio standard (RPS) in Florida. Currently in Florida, electricity generation from wood and wood waste contributes 0.6% of total capacity. To sustainably achieve 1% to 3% of electricity production from wood sources, logging residues and urban wood waste would have to be utilized in addition to merchantable timber, along with an enhanced reforestation program. Reforestation must at least keep pace with forest harvest removals. Beyond 3% of electricity generation from wood sources, short rotation energy crops, such as Eucalyptus species, would need to make up a larger share of the fuel mix in addition to all other feedstock sources mentioned above. The study concluded that a 7% RPS (equivalent of 1% to 3% electricity production from wood sources over time) would have little impact to the existing forest products industry and Florida's forest would remain sustainable.

A modest mandate of 7 % RPS would facilitate increases in timber stumpage prices landowners receive for their products and could lead to the larger goal of keeping "forests in forest". Any clean portfolio standard or RPS mandate should also incentivize tree planting, including short rotation energy crop establishment on acreage proportional to the magnitude of the mandate.

More details on the report furnished to the Florida Governor and the Legislature, and the two UF technical reports can be found at: <http://www.fl-dof.com/>

## **Introduction to the Florida Forestry Association**

By Phil Gornicki

The Florida Forestry Association is Florida's only statewide conservation organization uniquely positioned to bring together those who grow trees and those who use Florida's forests. Approximately 1,600 members of Florida's forestry community now belong to the Florida Forestry Association. Our mission is to promote the responsible use of Florida's forest resource through a variety of programs and services. We strive to:

**Ensure** the next generation will have clean water, clean air, outdoor havens for recreation, homes for wildlife and wood for products.

**Work** to advance sound political policies to sustain our forest resources and vital forest products industry.

**Help** Florida citizens better understand the social, ecological and economic value of our forests.

**Promote** individuals and businesses that show what owning forestland and practicing sustainable forestry is all about.

## What We Believe

Trees are Florida's largest agriculture business: Florida's highest valued agriculture product is trees. Over \$16.6 billion is infused into Florida's economy from the manufacturing and distribution of forest products each year. Florida's forest products industry and family of private landowners contribute a wealth of support to many communities. Currently, over 133,000 employees of Florida's forest industry are paid nearly \$5 billion each year.

Commercial forestland owners are great stewards of the land: Florida has over 300,000 private landowners taking care of our forests. Putting the “green” back is important to Florida's future. With ongoing, active management these lands can make important contributions to our economy and quality of our environment.

Sustainability is the only way to go: Sound forest practices help protect our water, enhance our green space and provide habitat for Florida's birds and animals. Through programs such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), our industry is not only perpetuating a steady supply of wood, it is working with landowners and professional timber harvesters to protect wildlife, plants, soil and water quality while growing trees for future generations. The Florida Forestry Association also is a key supporter of the American Tree Farm System, an internationally recognized “green certification” program that currently includes nearly 900 certified Tree Farms in Florida.

## What We've Done

Since its beginnings in 1923, the Florida Forestry Association has played an important role in

creating the Florida Board of Forestry, which organized the Florida Forest Service "to gather and disseminate information on forests, their care and management, to prevent and extinguish forest fires, and to enforce all laws pertaining to forests and woodlands."; developing and evaluating forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control potential water quality problems; developing the Environmental Resource Permit rule for permitting certain forestry-related activities through the state's water management districts; launching the Florida Forests Forever public awareness initiative; conducting a "Goods from the Woods" information campaign; and bringing together more than 80 forest growers and users for an inaugural “Conversation on Conservation Roundtable” to engage in a dialogue to help maintain working forests in Florida’s landscape.

## Want to Become a Member of Florida Forestry Association?

Membership in the Florida Forestry Association provides the access you need to connect, learn and bring greater value to your land or business. Well-developed tools and professionals are standing by to help you amplify your investment as you grow, harvest and enjoy your forest.

**As a special offer to landowners this year, the Florida Forestry Association is offering a reduced registration rate for “landowner” spouses during our Annual Meeting “Land Owner Day” event (September 8, in Destin).** For more information about who we are, membership, and our Annual Meeting please call (850) 222-5646 or visit our website at [www.floridaforest.org](http://www.floridaforest.org).

## **Congratulations Certified Forest Stewards and Tree Farmers!**



Will and Joni Ellis, Alachua County



Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch,  
received award for Outstanding Forest  
Stewardship, Suwannee County



Drs. Sue Kossuth and Hilton Biggs,  
Alachua County



John Wigodsky (R) with land manager, Steve  
Coleman (L) and Mike Mathis, DOF (center),  
Walton County



Bobby Shoemaker, Sumter County



The Begue Family, Holmes County

### **Not Pictured:**

Ted Hoepner, Forest Steward,  
Volusia County

Rod Carman, Forest Steward,  
Volusia County

Raymond Fletcher, Jr & Family,  
Forest Stewards, Suwannee County



Bill and Marilyn Deas, Alachua County

### **Not Pictured:**

Donna & Jerry Ellis, Forest Stewards,  
Suwannee County

Jim Hora and Al Saline, Forest Stewards  
and Tree Farmers, Volusia County

Dr. Perran Ross and Sylvia Scudder,  
Forest Stewards, Alachua County

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

[http://www.fl-dof.com/forest\\_management/cfa\\_steward\\_index.html](http://www.fl-dof.com/forest_management/cfa_steward_index.html)

[http://www.floridaforest.org/tree\\_farm.php](http://www.floridaforest.org/tree_farm.php)



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# Forest Stewardship Workshop: *Invasive Exotic Plants and Their Control*

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**September 17, 2010; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm CT**  
**Jackson County Ag. Conference Center**  
**2741 Pennsylvania Avenue, Marianna, FL 32448**

Some exotic plants are invasive weeds that form expanding populations on our landscape, making management for timber, wildlife and other benefits a challenge. These invasive exotic plants can displace native plants and associated wildlife, and can affect fire and water flow. The rapid and effective dispersal characteristics of these invaders make them extremely difficult to eliminate. This program will describe some of the more common and troublesome invasive exotic plants in northwest Florida and current methods being used to control them.



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<b>Agenda:</b>	9:00 am	<b>Sign-in, meet &amp; greet</b>
	9:15	<b>Herbicide safety, Clyde Smith, UF-IFAS Jackson County Cooperative Extension Service (CES)</b>
	9:35	<b>Application techniques: equipment and minimizing drift, Clyde Smith</b>
	10:15	<b>Break</b>
	10:30	<b>How herbicides work: modes of action, selectivity and mobility, Dr. Patrick Minogue, UF-IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center</b>
	11:20	<b>Local invasive exotic plants and control, Judy Ludlow, UF-IFAS Calhoun County CES</b>
	12:00 pm	<b>Lunch, Sponsors TBA</b>
	1:00	<b>Field demonstrations, Josh Spies, The Nature Conservancy and Apalachicola National Forest</b>
	3:00	<b>Evaluation and adjourn</b>

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**Register:** Cost is \$10 per person, lunch and materials included. Please register on-line at <http://fsp-workshop091710.eventbrite.com/>. Those without Internet access can reserve a space by calling the Jackson County Extension Office at (850) 482-9620. Payment can be made at the door with a check, payable to University of Florida. Continuing Education Units will be available for pesticide applicators and SAF Continuing Forestry Education credits will be available for foresters. *Space is limited so please register early.* Directions to the office are on the back. 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.**

## Directions to Jackson County Ag. Conference Center

-From I-10 take the Marianna SR 276 Exit. Travel north on highway 276 (becomes Pennsylvania Avenue at the Marianna city limit) approximately 1.3 miles. The Ag. Conference Center is located behind the Cooperative Extension Service and USDA offices in the Jackson County Agriculture Office Complex.

-If traveling U.S. Highway 90 (becomes Lafayette Street at the city limits), turn south at the juncture of Lafayette Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. Travel approximately 1.3 miles.



**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](mailto: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](http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida_forestry_information/index.html)**





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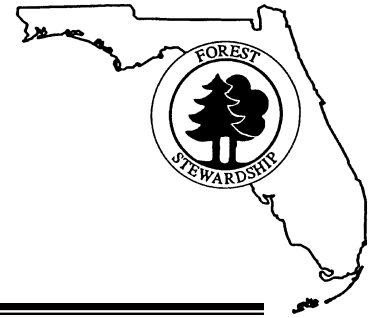
# Property Tour

## *Gaskin Farm*

### Property of Jimmy Gaskin

#### *Okaloosa County, FL*

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**Date:** *Thursday, October 14, 2010; meet and greet at 9:00 AM CT.  
Program begins promptly at 9:30.*

**Tour:** Gaskin Farm, a 1,200-acre property that spans the Florida-Alabama border, was historically used for producing livestock and agronomic crops. Jimmy Gaskin, the 4<sup>th</sup>-generation owner and manager of the farm, now manages the property for recreation and timber production. Wildlife habitat is an important objective, as income is generated from the property by hunting leases. Prescribed fire is used to manage for habitat restoration and aesthetics. Jimmy has found assistance through Florida's Forest Stewardship Program and the USDA's Wildlife Habitat Incentives and Conservation Reserve Programs. Highlights of the tour will include Watson's Bay, a large hardwood swamp on the property and the original farm house established in 1891. The tour will be outdoors and some walking will be required.

**Register:** Cost is \$10 per person, lunch and materials included. Please register on-line at <http://fsp-tour101410.eventbrite.com/>. Those without Internet access can reserve a space by calling the Okaloosa County Extension Office at (850) 689-5850. Payment can be made on-site with a check, payable to University of Florida. ***Space will be limited so please register early.*** Directions to the property are on the back. Please share this announcement with others who may be interested. Contact Chris Demers, (352) 846-2375, [cdemers@ufl.edu](mailto:cdemers@ufl.edu), with questions about this or other Florida Forest Stewardship Program events.



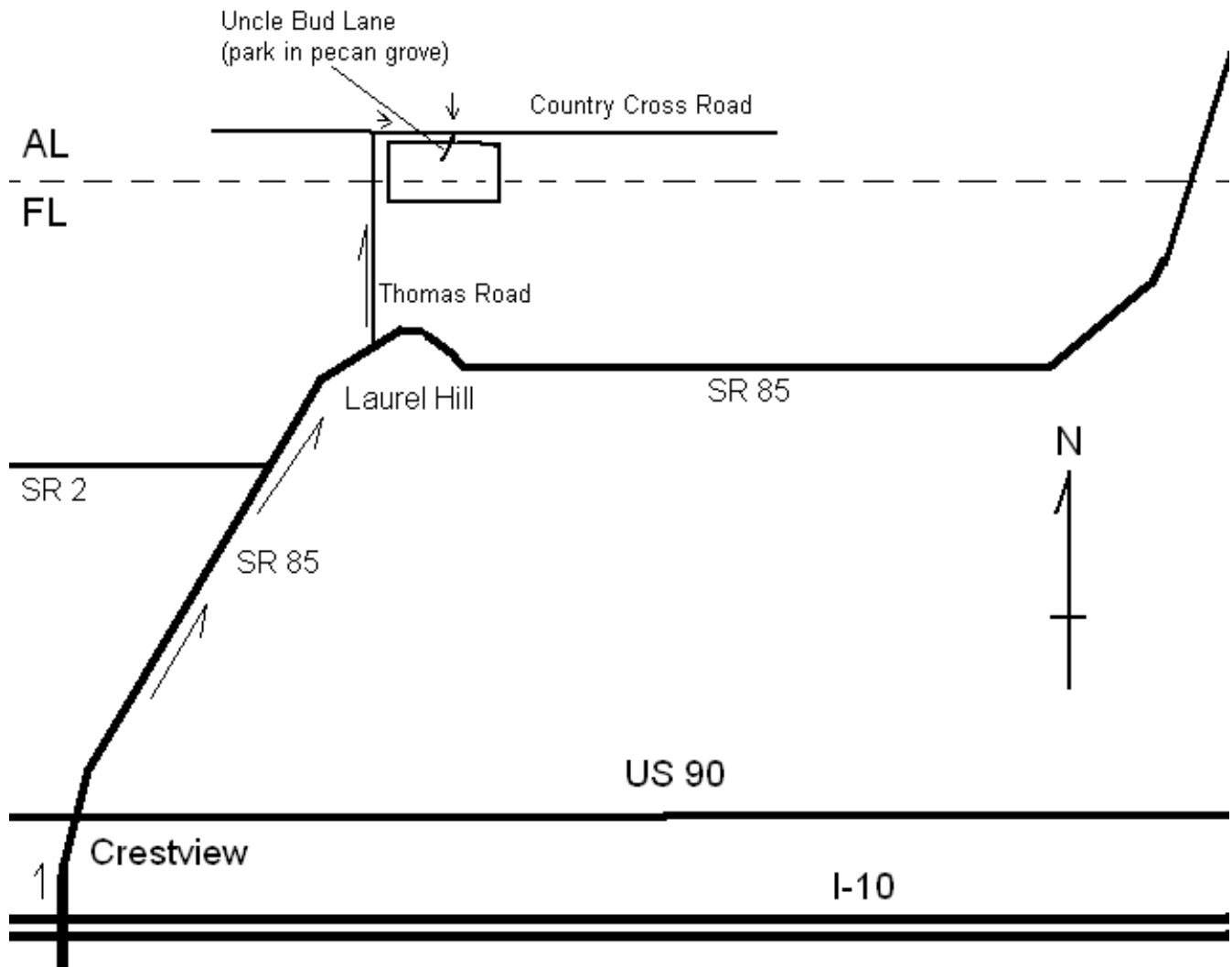
Funding for Florida's Forest Stewardship Program is provided by the USDA Forest Service through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry and a grant from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

## Directions to Gaskin Farm

### From I-10:

- Take Exit 56 off I-10, SR 85 and travel **north**
- Go through Crestview and Garden City to Laurel Hill
- Just past the Tom Thumb Food Store in Laurel Hill, turn **left (north)** on Thomas Road
- After about 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles, you will enter Alabama
- Go another  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to Country Cross Road
- Turn **right (east)** on Country Cross Road
- Go about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to Uncle Bud Lane
- Turn **right (south)** on Uncle Bud Lane and proceed to parking area in a pecan grove

Map not to scale:



## 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 Southeast average price information for biomass fuel is now included.

Price ranges reported in the **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2010** Timber Mart-South (TMS) report were:

### Florida Stumpage Prices

- Pine pulpwood: \$19 - \$41/cord (\$7 - \$15/ton), ↓\*
- Pine C-N-S: \$36 - \$58/cord (\$13 - \$22/ton), ↑
- Pine sawtimber: \$55 - \$95/cord (\$20 - \$35/ton), ↑
- Pine plylogs: \$66 - \$93/cord (\$20 - \$35/ton), ↓
- Pine power poles: \$111 - \$159/cord (\$42 - \$59/ton), -
- Hardwood pulpwood: \$12 - \$26/cord (\$4 - \$9/ton), ↓

\*from average 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2010 prices

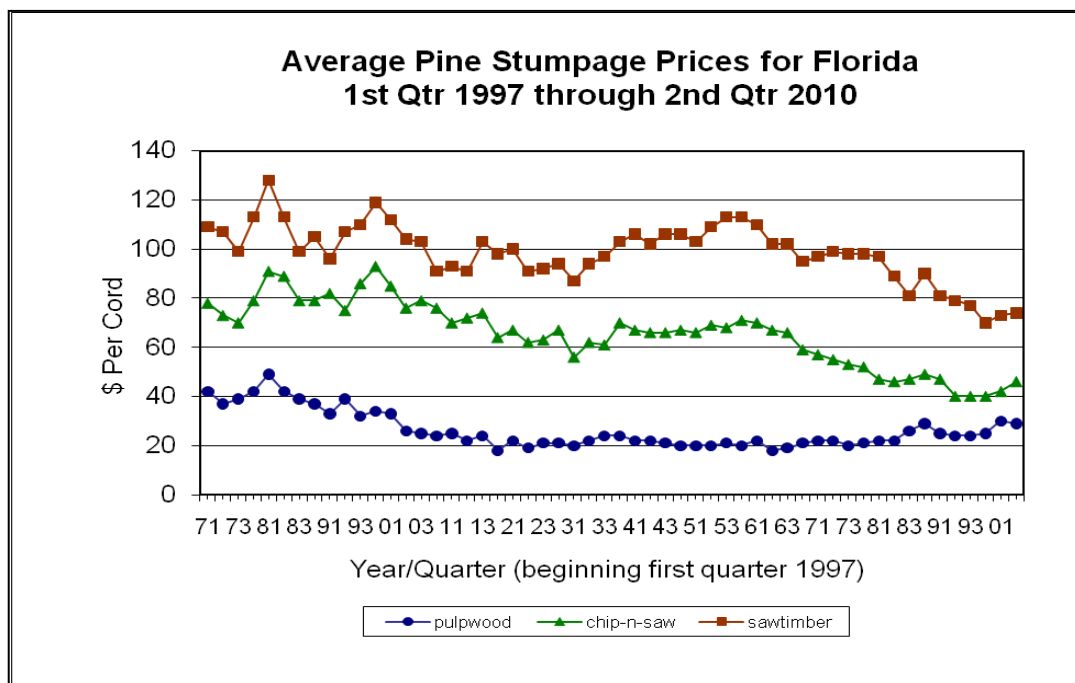
### Biomass Fuel\*

- In-woods whole tree pine: \$19 - \$26
- In-woods whole tree hardwood: \$17 - \$26

\*Southeast average low and high price ranges per ton, fuel quality chips from tops, limbs, limited bole material or otherwise pre-commercial material

## Trend Report

Stumpage prices for most products, on average across the Southeast, remained above those in the same period of 2009. However, underlying demand for building products is still weak. According to the US Census, housing starts remain at record low levels. Biomass seems to be a beacon of hope for the pre-commercial and residual wood market, but the uncertainty and resistance surrounding many announced projects dampen optimism that this emerging market will gain considerable steam in the near term.





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UPCOMING EVENTS	
Date	Event, Location, Contacts
September 8-9	<i>2010 Florida Forestry Association Annual Meeting, Landowner Day is Sept. 8, Sandestin Resort, Destin, FL. See <a href="http://www.floridaforest.org/">http://www.floridaforest.org/</a> or call (850) 222-5646 for information.</i>
September 12-15	<i>National Goat Conference, Leon County Civic Center in Tallahassee, FL. Hosted by Florida A &amp; M University. See <a href="http://www.famu.edu/cesta/main/index.cfm/upcoming-events/national-goat-conference/">http://www.famu.edu/cesta/main/index.cfm/upcoming-events/national-goat-conference/</a> for details.</i>
September 17	<i>Forest Stewardship Workshop: Invasive Exotic Plants and Their Control, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm CT, UF-IFAS Jackson County Ag Center, Marianna, FL. Cost is \$10 per person, includes lunch, materials and field trip. Register on-line: <a href="http://fsp-workshop091710.eventbrite.com/">http://fsp-workshop091710.eventbrite.com/</a> or contact the Jackson County Extension Office at (850) 482-9620.</i>
October 14	<i>Forest Stewardship Tour: Property of Jimmy Gaskin, Okaloosa County, 9 am - 1:00 pm CT. Cost is \$10 per person, includes lunch and materials. Register on-line: <a href="http://fsp-tour101410.eventbrite.com/">http://fsp-tour101410.eventbrite.com/</a> or contact the Okaloosa County Extension Office at (850) 482-9620.</i>
October 22	<i>Pine Straw Production Workshop and In-service Training, 9 am – 3 pm ET. UF-IFAS Suwannee Valley Research and Education Center in Live Oak, FL. A small fee will be collected to cover lunch and materials. Call the Suwannee Valley REC at (386) 362-1725 x. 101 to register.</i>

**For more information and events about Florida's Forest Stewardship Program and land management visit:**  
***[www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida\\_forestry\\_information/index.html](http://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:**

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