

Wildland Fire Chainsaws, Basic Faller 3 (S-112)

October 28-30, 2025

Ordway-Swisher Biological Station, Melrose FL

Instructed by Florida Forest Service & collaborating cadre

Instructor-Led Training Agenda



Natural Areas
TRAINING ACADEMY

Tuesday, October 28

07:40 Arrive at gate Ordway-Swisher Biological Station ([693 SR26, Melrose, FL](#))

07:55 Check in at Conservation Center building

08:00 Welcome, Introductions, and Overview

08:15 Course Introduction (Unit 9)

09:00 Online Training Review (Unit 10)

09:45 Your Chainsaw (Unit 11)

12:30 Lunch Break (*provided by NATA*)

13:15 Working the Fireline (Unit 12)

16:30 Preparing for the Field Activities

16:45 Review, comments, and questions

17:30 Conclude for day

Wednesday, October 29

07:40 Arrive at gate Ordway-Swisher Biological Station ([693 SR26, Melrose, FL](#))

07:55 Check in at Conservation Center building

08:00 Briefing for Field Exercises, transport to field site

09:00 Station Rotations: Bucking, Limbing, Brushing, & Sizeup Procedures (90 minutes/station)

12:00 Lunch (*provided by NATA*)

12:30 Station Rotations *continued*: Bucking, Limbing, Brushing, & Sizeup Procedures

16:00 Return to Conservation Center, Debrief/AAR

17:00 Saw rehab/cleaning

17:30 Conclude for day

Thursday, October 30

07:40 Arrive at gate Ordway-Swisher Biological Station ([693 SR26, Melrose, FL](#))

07:55 Check in at Conservation Center building

08:00 Briefing for Field Exercises, transport to field site

09:00 Felling and Stump Analysis (in groups of 3 with field instructor)

12:00 Lunch (*provided by NATA*)

12:30 Felling and Stump Analysis *continued*

16:00 Return to Conservation Center, Debrief/AAR

17:00 Certificates

17:30 Conclude for day

**Times are estimates and subject to change at the discretion of instructor.*

A note to students: The primary objective of this training is to provide **A SAFE** and educational experience for all participants. Chainsaws are very dangerous tools. We are relying on the students to adhere to proper safety standards at all times by wearing all required PPE when necessary, maintaining a heightened level of situational awareness when in the field, and following instructor guidance carefully and respectfully. If you don't understand something, please ask an instructor- we're here to help!

Field Instructors/Staff:

Name	Organization	Role	Email
Mark Larson	Florida Forest Service	Lead Instructor	Mark.Larson@fdacs.gov
Matt Klindt	Florida Forest Service	Incident Command	Matthew.Klindt@fdacs.gov
JT McUmb	Ordway-Swisher Biological Station	Field Instructor	johntmc1mber@ufl.edu
Stephen Wasp	Tall Timbers Research Station	Field Instructor	swasp@talltimbers.org
Brent Keith	St. Johns River Water Management District	Field Instructor	BKeith@sjrwmd.com
Logan Deuel	Florida Forest Service	Field Instructor	Logan.Deuel@FDACS.gov
Andrew Walter	Florida Forest Service	Field Instructor	William.Walter@FDACS.gov
Chelsea Mackenzie	TNC South Carolina	Field Instructor	c.f.mackenzie@TNC.ORG
Ronald Guy	Tall Timbers Research Station	Field Instructor	rguy@talltimbers.org
Tracey Sleek	Ordway-Swisher Biological Station	Site Host	tasleek@UFL.EDU
Shelly Johnson	Natural Areas Training Academy, UF/IFAS	Course Organizer	shelly.johnson@ufl.edu

EACH participant should bring ALL the REQUIRED supplies on each day of the training:

Required PPE:

- Approved hardhat (full brim or cap style)
- Wrap-around eye protection (safety glasses or shield)
- Hearing protection (earplugs or muffs) with NRR (Noise Reduction Rating) of 20 or more
- Leather gloves that are slip-resistant
- Long-sleeved shirt and long pants (Nomex encouraged and preferred)
- Approved chain saw chaps
- Cut-resistant boots with non-slip sole (generally, leather with Vibram-sole) minimum 8-inches high

Required Gear:

- Operational chainsaw
- Basic chainsaw maintenance kit (including: srench, round file, flat file, file handles/guides, depth gauge tool etc.)
- Wedges, felling axe or pounder
- Incident Response Pocket Guide
- A refillable water bottle (you will have access to water coolers, but you MUST bring your own bottle to fill up)

Recommended:

2-cycle fuel mix and bar oil