

FLORIDA LAND STEWARD



A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

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Congratulations Doug and Teresa Moore: 2018 Florida Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year

By Chris Demers, UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation

For Doug and Teresa Moore, forest stewardship was an opportunity to begin a new life after many successful years in agriculture. Dairy farming had been the family business for three generations. Doug had a farm with 2,000 head of dairy cows in Duval County, as well as 600 acres of corn in Putnam County and a landscape tree nursery. However, Jacksonville's growth, together with increasingly restrictive regulations led him to quit the dairy business in 2004. It had long been a dream of his to own timberland that he could live on and manage for timber and wildlife, so Doug began looking into timber tracts.

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Get the Florida Land Steward Newsletter by Email

Due to rising postage and printing costs and limited funding we are strongly encouraging the Florida Land Steward newsletter readership to join the Florida Land Steward email listserv to receive this publication electronically. Don't miss out on upcoming events and news. Send an email to cdemers@ufl.edu to be added to the email listserv. Email updates are sent once a week or every other week and include the latest calendar of workshops, tours and other events; a link to the current issue of this newsletter; updates on cost-share and other assistance programs and resources; and other stewardship related news and information.



Doug and Teresa Moore at South Prong Plantation in Baker County, photo by Mike Branch.

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A True Working Forest

South Prong Plantation encompasses over 2,400 acres of pine flatwoods, cypress swamps and hydric hammock that is home to a wide variety of wildlife. While Doug's primary objective is managing for high-quality wildlife habitat, the plantation also produces timber and is a great example of integrating intensive timber management and wildlife habitat management.

Doug's management objectives are a combination of timber income and recreation for the family. "I would like to set it aside for conservation so it would be used after I am gone for the same purpose as it is now," he says. "But I still want the family to be the managers, not the government."

Outreach

Doug also offers the property for use to the UF/IFAS Extension, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC),

and other partners for educational programs. He's an FWC certified Youth Hunt Master and leads youth hunts on the property. He also leads camping and merit badge programs with the Boy Scouts.

"I offer and encourage many organizations to visit my property, from hunters to the tree huggers," he says. "I think the more people understand that a working tree farm like mine can provide a renewable resource while enhancing wildlife and conservation for the future, the better the industry will be."

"Plenty of Help Out There"

With a background primarily in livestock management, Doug needed a bit of a primer on forestry and wildlife management when he got started. He found help through courses provided by the University of Florida's Cooperative Extension Service and the Florida Forest Service.

"When I purchased the property, I took every course offered by Extension to learn about wildlife management and forestry," Doug explains. "I took the Master Tree Farmer level 1 and 2, Master Wildlifer, Preparing for the Next Owner and other courses. I became a Certified Burn Manager, and I now have a business, Flatwoods Management LLC, in which I contract prescribed burning, timberland maintenance and wildlife management."

"With management planning and practice I've had assistance through the Forest Stewardship program, UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension Service, FWC, Florida Forest Service, National Wild Turkey Federation, my friend and consulting forester, Leonard Wood, and many others. There is plenty of help out there. I'm very surprised that more landowners do not take advantage of it."

Congratulations Doug, Teresa and the whole family for being selected as the 2018 Florida Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.



Left: Doug is a certified prescribed burner. Prescribed fire is an important, and regularly used, management tool at South Prong Plantation. **Right:** Doug Moore in a recently planted stand of longleaf pines in the grass stage. Photos by Camila Guillen.

The Northwest Florida Landscape Management Plan: Enhancing Landowner Engagement and Forest Certification

By Chris Demers, UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and Laura Bosworth, American Forest Foundation

A forest management plan has long been one of the cornerstones in a forester's and landowners' relationship that ideally will result in active forest management. It lays out the road map for an individual to achieve their management goals and provides guidance for actions that a landowner should follow to achieve their forest objectives. That said, we are now rethinking the management plan. Management plans, while written to be very helpful, are time intensive to develop, and not always utilized by landowners. Recent research has shown that, for many landowners, it may not affect how they manage their land as much as the relationship with the forester or natural resource professional(s) assisting them. For some foresters and natural resource professionals this may not come as a surprise when they think about how their plans are being used. While the utility of management plans for the landowner is not always evident, they are still a required element for enrollment in a variety of tax, certification, cost share, and other programs. In some cases the management plan requirement has resulted in a slow certification process and limited opportunity for assistance beyond the plan. It may not be a stretch to say that the management plan requirement has been a barrier to program enrollment and involvement for some landowners.

The American Forest Foundation, along with partners in Alabama and Florida, have been working to innovate around these challenges. In 2017, a first-of-its-kind forest management plan – a landscape management plan – was launched to reduce barriers for family woodland owners, and to help coordinate and implement landscape-scale conservation priorities across small and family forest ownerships. This

new approach places more value on the forester-landowner relationship. The resulting product is a management tool that reflects how effective management assistance and active management occur.

What is the Landscape Management Plan?

The Landscape Management Plan (LMP) is a suite of silvicultural practices available for landowners across different forest types, guided by the landscape and landowner objectives in a region. The LMP content is designed to be a resource for foresters and interested landowners. The difference in this approach is the emphasis on the forester or natural resource professional being a more important resource than the plan itself. For the forester, the landowner's individual objectives and plan is viewed within the context of the landscape. Each recommendation connects back to the identified goals and objectives of the LMP. This oftentimes already happens at the property level, but the LMP clearly defines opportunities at a landscape level and provides foresters guidance and reference for recommendations.

The LMP is not designed to be a one-size-fits-all planning tool. While the LMP is designed to best serve the needs and desires of a defined area, it is adaptive and dynamic. Edits and additions can be added as situations change or new information becomes available.

Why a Landscape Approach?

Values like forest product production, wildlife habitat and conservation are important to both landowners and those planning landscape conservation strategies. This can help those serving forest landowners to align landscape conservation goals with landowner interests,

and to do so with transparency and through continuous engagement. Recent research on landowner-forester interaction suggests it is the engagement with and technical advice from a professional that provides the motivation and support landowners need to act on the ground (Butler et al., 2014). A landscape approach reduces the time spent in the office by the forester developing management plans. Where the LMP is being used, foresters are reporting more time in the field assisting landowners because of the reduction in office time.

Relationships are the Key

The planning process remains critical to sustainable forest management. However, there is a need for a more efficient and cost-effective approach that reflects the interests and needs of family forest landowners, enhances the forester-landowner relationship and involves them in identifying and contributing to important landscape-scale conservation needs and opportunities.

Landscape Plans in Action

There are currently two areas utilizing the LMP. A pilot Landscape Management Plan (LMP) has been designed for use across 22 counties in northern Alabama and in 16 counties across the Florida Panhandle. These landscape plans reduce the management plan barrier to active management that many family forest landowners encounter in getting involved in forestry and conservation activities. The plans also streamline the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) certification process, maintain the credibility and standards required for ATFS certification, and provides landowners with the essential technical support

Continued on next page

needed to implement long-term sustainable management. Specifically, these LMPs:

- Help create efficiencies in program enrollment, including certification, by providing an alternative option to an individual forest management plan. Landowners can choose to use the LMP in order to streamline the process, so they can get started on their land management and expedite program enrollment and certification.
- Look at management planning from the landscape level, taking into account the entire forest ecosystem and prioritizing conservation needs across a region; such as wildlife habitat, species biodiversity and the clean water supply. This helps pull together many family landowners' efforts within a larger landscape conservation context.

Results Thus Far

Since the fall of 2017 in the 38 counties where the Landscape Management Plan is offered, there has been a 310% increase in the number of Tree Farms certified, and a 540% increase in the acres certified in the ATFS. With the success of the LMP in two different landscapes, AFF is working to expand this effort to other regions within Alabama and Florida, and working with additional states to create similar landscape plans that apply to specific regions. AFF intends to have these in the field for landowners within the next couple years.

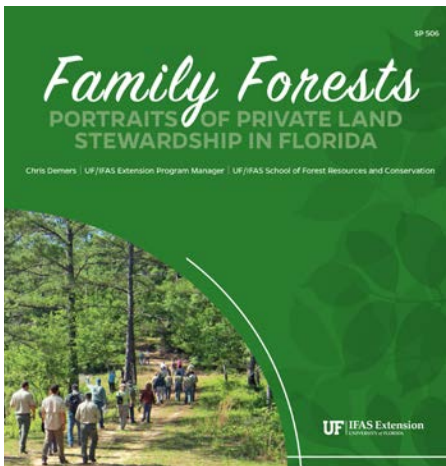
Stay tuned! We will keep you posted on these continuing efforts to streamline the forest management plan and certification process in the Florida Land Steward newsletter and email updates.

Citation

Brett J. Butler, Marla Markowski-Lindsay, Stephanie Snyder, Paul Catanzaro, David B. Kittredge, Kyle Andrejczyk, Brenton J. Dickinson, Derya Eryilmaz, Jaketon H. Hewes, Paula Randler, Donna Tadler, Michael A. Kilgore; Effectiveness of Landowner Assistance Activities: An Examination of the USDA Forest Service's Forest Stewardship Program, *Journal of Forestry*, Volume 112, Issue 2, 1 March 2014, Pages 187-197, <https://academic.oup.com/jof/article/112/2/187/4599598>

<https://www.forestfoundation.org/landscape-management-plan-pilot-results>

New Book from the UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation: *Family Forests: Portraits of Private Land Stewardship in Florida*



The Family Forests book, by Florida Forest Stewardship Program Manager, Chris Demers, is an attempt to put a face on the portion of Florida's forests that are in private ownership. Through the stories of nine forest landowners, the book

provides a snapshot about who owns and manages Florida's family forests, the range of management goals and objectives they have for their properties, the many benefits these lands provide the landowners and society, and some thoughts about what the future holds for them.

Another purpose of this book is to inspire and encourage private landowners to embrace a land stewardship ethic. If you or your family have just purchased a rural property for recreational or investment purposes and are new to the idea of land stewardship, this book will give you some information and ideas about what may be possible. Perhaps more importantly, it will reinforce the fact that there are many resources available, as well as a

robust network of foresters, natural resource professionals, advocates, and even other landowners who can guide and assist you in your land management efforts and challenges.

If you are a landowner who is already practicing a stewardship ethic and actively managing your property for environmental, economic, and social benefits, this compilation of experiences and resources will give you some renewed energy and encouragement to continue in your stewardship endeavors, and perhaps tap into ideas and resources that you have not yet considered.

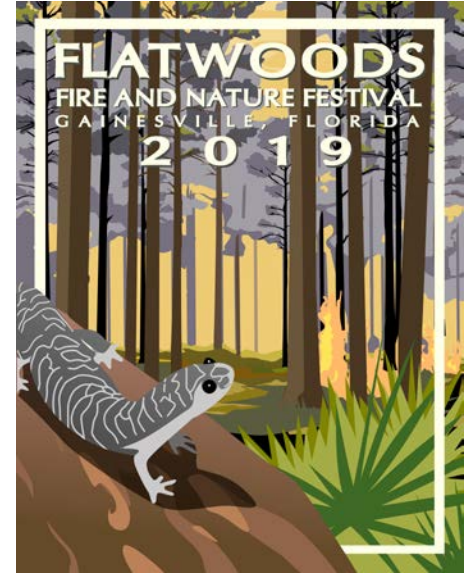
Family Forests is available for purchase, \$12.95 at the UF/IFAS Extension Bookstore, online at <http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu/p-1433-family-forests.aspx>

Flatwoods Fire and Nature Festival

The UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources & Conservation, Florida Forest Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Alachua Conservation Trust, St. Johns River Water Management District, and many other agencies and organizations are joining together to host the first Flatwoods Fire and Nature Festival. The event will be on January 26, 2019, 10 am to 3 pm at the University of Florida's Austin Cary Forest located off Waldo Road, about 6 miles north of Gainesville at 10625 NE Waldo Rd, Gainesville, FL 32609.

Join us for a celebration of Florida's forests and the role of fire in maintaining and enhancing their beauty, diversity, and habitat value.

Activities include educational exhibits and activities, live animals, prescribed burn demonstrations, a visit from Burner Bob the bobwhite quail, food trucks, live music, and more! Questions about the Flatwoods Fire and Nature Festival can be directed to Chris Demers, (352) 846-2375, cdemers@ufl.edu



Get Email Updates!

Don't miss out on upcoming events and news! A lot happens between issues of this quarterly newsletter. Send an email to cdemers@ufl.edu to be added to the stewardship listserv. Updates are sent every week or two and include the latest calendar of workshops, tours and other events; a link to the current issue of this newsletter; updates on cost-share and other assistance programs and resources; and other stewardship related news and information.

Florida Association of Consulting Foresters Receives STIHL Small Chapter of the Year Award

By Mark Milligan, Florida Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters

The Florida Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters was recently presented with the STIHL Small Chapter of the Year award for their wide-ranging activity supporting forestry as a profession and ACF as an organization. As documented in their detailed annual report, the Florida Chapter strongly encourages and facilitates continuing education not only for its own members, but also non-ACF foresters in the state. Several chapter members hold leadership positions on state- and national-level, forestry-related boards and committees, providing

specialized input for advancing the profession of consulting forestry. Additionally, the chapter pays it forward by donations to educational opportunities like the Florida Forestry Teachers Tour and Project Learning Tree.

Chapters are evaluated on their strength in membership and/or recruitment, focus on providing continuing education, outreach to other organizations (public, private and/or political), outreach to landowners, and having short- and long-term chapter goals. The award amount of

\$500 is used by the winning chapters to further build programs to meet the above goals. "Our Florida members should be proud of their outstanding accomplishments this year and ACF is proud to partner with STIHL in recognizing their work," commented ACF President Jerry Tugwell at the award presentation. "We look forward to seeing how these chapters put this prize money to use in their annual reports next year!"

TIMBER PRICE UPDATE

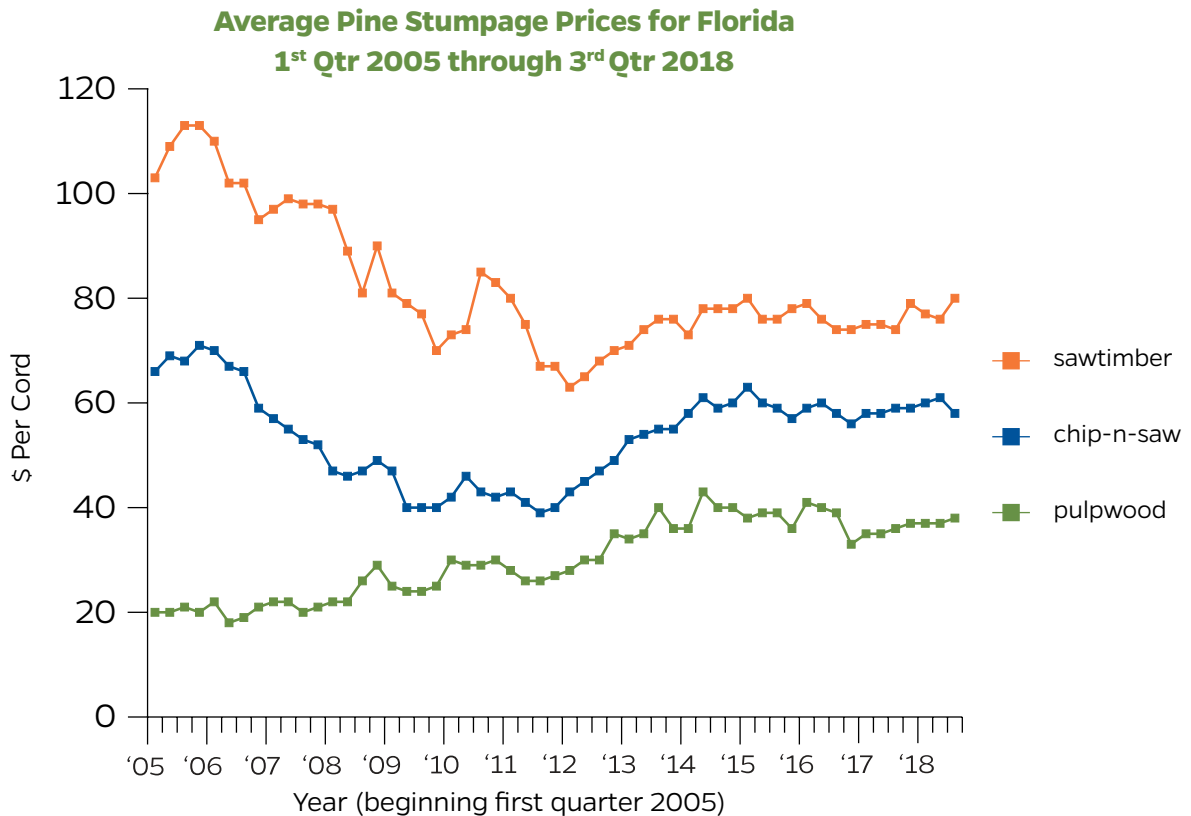
The timber pricing information below is useful for observing trends over time, but does not reflect current conditions at a particular location. Landowners considering a timber sale are advised to solicit the services of a consulting forester to obtain current local market conditions.

Average stumpage prices for the three major products in Florida, as reported in the **3rd Quarter 2018** Timber Mart-South report were:

Florida Stumpage Prices	
Pine pulpwood:	\$38/cord (\$14/ton), same as 2 nd Qtr. 2018
Pine C-N-S:	\$58/cord (\$22/ton), ↓ slightly
Pine sawtimber:	\$80/cord (\$30/ton), ↑

Trend Report

As with the last several quarterly reports, overall average forest product price trends remain steady. Florida's average pine sawtimber price of \$30/ton is again the highest in the Southern region, with the South-wide average price again at \$24/ton. Hurricane Michael devastated the central Panhandle region on October 10. As of this report, the estimated value of timber damage in Florida is \$1.3 billion, impacting nearly three million acres of forestland. We will continue to share information on available disaster recovery assistance on Florida Land Steward email updates as it becomes available. Send an email to Chris Demers, cdemers@ufl.edu to be added to the distribution if you are not on it.



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 FOREST STEWARDS AND TREE FARMERS

For more information about becoming a Certified Forest Steward or Tree Farmer, contact your Florida Forest Service County Forester, consultant or learn about it at:

<https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/For-Landowners/Programs/Forest-Stewardship-Program>

or

<http://floridaforest.org/programs/florida-tree-farm/>

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



Billy and Marcia Boothe with David Findley (center), Gadsden County



Daniel Hightower (right) with Greg Barton, Marion County



David Pierce (right) with Cathy Hardin, Escambia County



David Pitts and Easton Walter with Cathy Hardin, Escambia County



Devin Simmons with Cathy Hardin, Escambia County



George and Karen Joseph, Walton County



Jeff Ishee with Cathy Hardin, Escambia County



John Jerrell, Santa Rosa County



Fred Capiluto and Doc Stonestreet of TnT Farms, with Matt Kennard (center), Volusia County

Upcoming Stewardship, Small Farm and Other Events

Date	Event, Location, Contact
Jan 26, 2019	Flatwoods Fire and Nature Festival , 10 am to 3 pm, Austin Cary Forest near Gainesville, FL. Join us for a celebration of Florida's forests and the role of fire in maintaining and enhancing their beauty, diversity, and habitat value. Fun for the whole family. Activities include educational exhibits and activities, live animals, prescribed burn demonstrations, a visit from Burner Bob the bobwhite quail, food vendors, live music, and more! <i>See the event Facebook page linked above for information and to express interest: https://www.facebook.com/events/246640302864953</i>
Feb 23	Florida Scrub-Jay Festival , 10 am to 3:30 pm, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Children's crafts and games, nature exhibits, live animals, watercolor exhibit, live music, presentations, and guided nature walks. <i>See https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Merritt_Island/ or contact the Visitor Center at (321) 861-0669</i>
March 1	Florida Land Stewards of 2019 Tour at Ben and Lou Ann Williams' Wetland Preserve, Putnam County . Mark your calendar and stay tuned to Florida Land Steward email updates for details. <i>Email cdemers@ufl.edu to be added to the distribution</i> . The Williams family and property will be featured in the 2019 Florida Land Steward Calendar and the first Florida Land Steward newsletter issue of 2019.
April 30- May 1	2019 SAF / SFRC Spring Symposium: Family Forests . We'll explore the benefits, challenges, and issues around family-owned forests in Florida and the region. Mark your calendar and stay tuned to Florida Land Steward email updates for details.

For many more events and information see: floridalandsteward.org

The Florida Land Steward Newsletter is a 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:

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

Dr. Michael Andreu (co-editor)
UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources & Conservation
(352) 846-0355 • mandreu@ufl.edu

Bonnie Stine (co-editor)
Florida Forest Service
(850) 681-5888 • Bonnie.Stine@freshfromflorida.com

Joseph Prenger (co-editor)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Partners Program
(904) 731-3096 • Joseph_Prenger@fws.gov

Tony Grossman (co-editor)
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
(850) 410-5268 • Anthony.Grossman@myfwc.com

Jon Gould (co-editor), Florida Tree Farm Program
(205) 296-4923 • gouldjh@bellsouth.net