



# THE LONGLEAF LEADER



## *Spreading The Flame*

VOLUME XII - ISSUE 1

SPRING 2019

# NUTRA GUARD

Available Exclusively from  
Meeks' Farms & Nursery, Inc.

NUTRA GUARD uses encapsulated CRF released as a function of time/temperature

Unique and proprietary blend of controlled release fertilizers incorporated into the growing media



NUTRA GUARD plugs are loaded with 12 essential elements

12-14 months release cycle providing your seedlings an important jump start in the transition from nursery to newly planted forest

Get your seedlings off to a fast start.  
Insist on NUTRA GUARD from Meeks Farms and Nursery, Inc.

Meeks' Farms & Nursery, Inc.  
Kite, GA

Sales 877.809.1737

Regional Sales:

Pensacola, FL  
850.572.3932

Holly Ridge, NC  
910.512.1743

Swainsboro, GA  
478.455.0808

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



President’s Message .....2  
 Upcoming Events .....4  
 Letters from the Inbox .....5  
 Understory Plant Spotlight.....6  
 Sparking Interest & Action in Prescribed Burning  
 Among Private Landowners .....8  
**RESEARCH NOTES** .....12  
**LANDOWNER CORNER** .....14

**REGIONAL UPDATES** .....18  
**NEXT GENERATION** .....26  
**ARTS & LITERATURE** .....28  
 Longleaf Destinations .....32  
**SUPPORT THE ALLIANCE** .....38  
 Heartpine .....43

**PUBLISHER** The Longleaf Alliance, **EDITOR** Carol Denhof, **ASSISTANT EDITOR** Margaret Platt, **DESIGN** Bellhouse Publishing  
**ADVERTISING** Carol Denhof 678.595.6405 – editor@longleafalliance.org  
**COVER** Burner Bob and his prescribed fire partners burning in Wheeler County, Georgia. Photo by William Ledford.

*The Longleaf Leader (USPS#) is an official publication of The Longleaf Alliance, 12130 Dixon Center Road, Andalusia, Alabama 36420 and is published 4 times a year. The Longleaf Alliance reserves the exclusive right to accept or reject advertising or editorial material submitted for publication. Advertising rates quoted upon request. Postmaster: Send address changes to Longleaf Alliance, Address 12130 Dixon Center Road, Andalusia, Alabama 36420. Periodicals Postage Paid at Montgomery, Alabama.*

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# MANAGING WITH FIRE

BY ROBERT ABERNETHY, THE LONGLEAF ALLIANCE



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fire is one of the least expensive and most versatile tools that we use to manage the Southern woodlands. The native longleaf and all of its associated species evolved in a landscape where fire was present and as natural as wind, rain, and sunlight. Fire-scars on ancient trees and stumps tell us that fire was a common and widespread occurrence over at least the last thousand years. Lightning and Native Americans started many fires that burned across the landscape with varying intensity depending on the time of day, drought conditions, nature of the fuels, and barriers such as rivers and swamps. Through prehistory, fires burned until they went out.

Prescribed fire in the South has been used for generations to manage the forest, produce desirable forage for cattle, and make a landscape that can be more easily worked and traveled. As the human population has grown, the application of prescribed fire has been studied and fine-tuned to the point that we now have the necessary tools to monitor the weather, develop fire breaks, and apply fire in such a way that we can achieve specific objectives. We can safely burn young longleaf to knock out the competition and allow the longleaf to grow freely. We can carefully burn a stand of old longleaf with a thick duff layer without killing the trees. We know to watch the wind speed and direction and be very mindful of our downwind smoke and the problems it can cause.

As we have learned more about managing with fire and become more skilled in its application, the use of this versatile

tool has expanded out of the dormant season and increasingly returned to the growing season, the “natural” season of lightning ignition. By extending the burning season into the late spring and early summer, we have added additional safe burning days and can safely restore and manage additional land. The species that inhabit the southern woodlands evolved with fire and in many instances require frequent fire, and often growing season fire, to reach their most optimal populations.

As you look back on the dormant season burns you have just completed, take special note of the species you see in the burns. How quickly do the turkeys return to scratch through the ash? As the spring moves into summer, take note of the animals that return as the burn greens up. I encourage you to watch the birds nest and raise their young in a landscape once again refreshed and rejuvenated by fire.

Larry Landers famously said, “Taking fire out of the longleaf forest is like taking rain out of the rainforest.” Unlike rain, which falls when it will, we can replace the widespread fire of a thousand years ago with prescribed fire in a manner that is both compatible with our modern lifestyle and the restoration of our longleaf forest.

Thank you all for all you do to restore and manage this unique ecosystem; please take time to get out there and enjoy this glorious Spring.



*Longleaf cone and fire. Photo by Robert Abernethy.*

**Longleaf Alliance  
Board of Directors**

Marc Walley –  
*Chairman*

Barclay McFadden –  
*Past Chairman*

Angus Lafaye

Lynda Guerry Beam

Rufus Duncan

Robbie Fisher

Amanda Haralson

Ken Nichols

Mickey Parker

Mac Rhodes

Salem Saloom

Latimore Smith

Reese Thompson

George Tyson

Phillip Woods

**Staff**

**Robert Abernethy**  
*President*  
robert@longleafalliance.org

**Ad Platt**  
*Vice President of Operations*  
ad@longleafalliance.org

**Anne Rilling**  
*Vice President of Business*  
anne@longleafalliance.org

**Charlie Abeles**  
*Wildlife Biologist*  
charlie@longleafalliance.org

**Nicholas Barys**  
*Wetland Ecosystem Support Team  
Member*  
nick@longleafalliance.org

**Lynnsey Basala**  
*Development Director*  
lynnsey@longleafalliance.org

**Ryan Bollinger**  
*Local Implementation Team Consul*  
ryan\_b@longleafalliance.org

**Karen Zilliox Brown**  
*Technical Assistance & Training  
Specialist*  
karen@longleafalliance.org

**Emma Browning**  
*Biological Technician*  
emma\_b@longleafalliance.org

**Vernon Compton**  
*GCPEP Director*  
vernon@longleafalliance.org

**Carol Denhof**  
*Understory & Media Coordinator*  
carol@longleafalliance.org

**Bobby Franklin**  
*SoLoACE Partnership Coordinator*  
bobby@longleafalliance.org

**Lucas Furman**  
*GIS Support Specialist*  
lucas@longleafalliance.org

**Lisa Lord**  
*South Carolina Field Project  
Coordinator and Savannah River  
Watershed Project Director*  
lisa@longleafalliance.org

**Ryan Mitchell**  
*Outreach & Technical Assistance  
Coordinator*  
ryan@longleafalliance.org

**Edward O'Daniels**  
*Wetland Ecosystem Support  
Senior Team Member*  
edward@longleafalliance.org

**Jessica Sandoval**  
*Biological Technician*  
jessica@longleafalliance.org

**Brian Schumann**  
*Ecosystem Support Senior Team Member*  
brian@longleafalliance.org

**Kaiden Spurlock**  
*Ecosystem Support Team Supervisor*  
kaiden@longleafalliance.org

**Randy Tate**  
*Ft. Stewart/Altamaha Longleaf  
Restoration Partnership Coordinator*  
randy@longleafalliance.org

**Ben Tuttle**  
*Ecosystem Support Team Member*  
benjamin@longleafalliance.org

**Donna Vassallo**  
*Ecosystem Support Senior Team Member*  
donna@longleafalliance.org

**Casey White**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
office@longleafalliance.org

**Bob Wilken**  
*Fire Specialist*  
bob@longleafalliance.org



**ALIGN**  
**MINERAL MANAGEMENT**

*a subsidiary of Heard, McElroy & Vestal, LLC*

# 2019 | Calendar

**April 13**

**Party for the Pine**

Weymouth Woods, Southern Pines, North Carolina

**April 16-17**

**Longleaf Academy: Herbicides & Longleaf 201**

Holiday Inn, Lake City, Florida

**May 14-16**

**Longleaf Academy: Longleaf 101**

UF - West Florida Research & Education Center, Milton, Florida

**May 18**

**10th Annual Longleaf Festival**

Harris Lake County Park, New Hill, North Carolina

**June 11-13**

**Longleaf Academy: Herbicides & Longleaf 201**

Jones Lake State Park, Elizabethtown, North Carolina

**July 16-18**

**Longleaf Academy: Longleaf 101**

Withlacoochee Training Center, Brooksville, Florida

**September 24-26**

**Longleaf Academy: Understory Diversity 201**

Talladega, Alabama

**October 22-24**

**Longleaf Academy: Groundcover Restoration 201**

Austin Cary Forest Campus, Gainesville, Florida

For more information about events please visit The Longleaf Alliance website ([www.longleafalliance.org](http://www.longleafalliance.org)).

## SPRING 2019 MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

### Evaluate Young Stands:

- Assess winter tree plantings for early mortality from freeze damage or other factors.
- Uncover and/or lift viable containerized longleaf seedlings that were planted too deep.

### Planting Longleaf:

- Order seedlings for future plantings early. Sometimes nurseries sell out of preferred seed sources or entire inventories. A list of preferred nurseries can be found at [www.longleafalliance.org](http://www.longleafalliance.org).

### Herbicide Treatments:

- Assess stands for herbaceous competition to determine the need to spray or mow, especially on former agricultural sites. If a chemical release treatment is needed, know your pH before applying any Oust® product.
- Apply hexazinone as a site prep or to control oaks on sandy sites after bud-break but before full leaf-out. Hexazinone is tough on oaks but easy on many understory species.
- If harvesting a tract, ensure adequate time for resprouting

before applying a fall herbicide site prep treatment. If in doubt, wait a year.

### Prescribed Fire:

- Evaluate your winter burns to determine if you obtained desired fire effects.
- Burn young longleaf stands invaded by short needle pines or hardwood stems that are too large to control with winter burns.
- Use growing season fire in wiregrass stands to promote viable wiregrass seed production and more wildflowers.
- Conduct a seedbed preparation burn on mature stands with good cone crops. This allows the seedbed to be clean but not so clean that predators destroy all the seed.

### Plant Native Warm-Season Grasses:

- Plant before mid-May to try to avoid summer droughts.

# Q&A

**Q.** Dear Longleaf Alliance,  
I need some help! I have a 16-year old longleaf stand planted under the CRP program. I'm starting to have dying trees scattered throughout the stand. Do I have pine beetles? If so, what do I do?  
Help!

**A.** Dear Help,  
Following your request, we visited your property where we talked with your forester. We noted the scattered pine mortality throughout your stand and found that the basal area, a term foresters use to describe the stocking density of the trees, ranged between 150 and 190 square feet per acre. This is high, and your stand is stressed from the competition for water, sunlight, and nutrients. We also noted two other worrisome issues; fully one-third of the trees had cankers on the trunks or had forked tops. Many had both. The mortality was primarily focused on those trees. Some had signs of black turpentine beetles, and others showed symptoms of pitch canker. Many of the trees had poor form; this could be traced back to a year of poor seed crop quality.

This overstocked stand desperately needs to be thinned, which allows for the opportunity to take out the poor formed and diseased trees, giving the best crop trees room to grow. However, the trees are short. The average height of the pines is 38 feet, and they are not quite tall enough for efficient tree length logging. In your area, most loggers need to harvest trees

that are 42 feet to a 2-inch diameter top in order to fill their log trucks with enough timber to make the harvesting economical. The trees are most likely short because the soil in this old crop field has a hardpan which is restricting rooting depth.

This stand faces several challenges, and your decision may be determined by a stand inventory and a few follow up questions. Do you have enough good trees per acre to carry this stand to a longer rotation? If you decide to thin the stand, can you get a logger with a whole tree chipper to come in and do a thinning and chipping operation, and would there be enough wood volume to make that viable? Or, given the overall poor quality of the stand, would it be better to harvest this stand and begin a new planting with better site preparation and higher quality seedlings? Your forester can help guide you and your family through these decisions with consideration for your overall objectives.

Site preparation techniques and methods, as well as seedling quality, have improved considerably since your stand was established on old crop fields. Your objectives may even have changed over that time. If you choose to harvest and reforest, we can assist you with site-specific reforestation plans, including subsoiling, to ensure a better stand for the future.

Sincerely,  
The Longleaf Alliance

**Q.** Dear Longleaf Alliance,  
I finally got my nerve up and began burning in my longleaf, as you have been recommending. I think it went pretty well. This was primarily what you would call fuel reduction, and to prepare for future burns. I remember hearing a speaker in a previous field day also recommend that it was wise to do a post-burn assessment as a guide to better results next time. What exactly would you recommend to help me get better results next time?

First Burn

**A.** Dear First Burn,  
Congratulations on accomplishing your first burn in your longleaf stand! This is the pine that fire built, and we are pleased that you have gotten started in fire management. That first burn is very often the hardest one in a new stand, and you no doubt learned a lot that will make the next burn easier. Like any advisor making recommendations, we are thrilled both that you remembered the recommendation, and that you also asked a clarifying question. That is what really makes a technical assist feel worthwhile!

There are a couple of different kinds of "assessments," and both can be valuable to you. There are evaluations of the burn operation, and then evaluations of the effects of the burn. The first kind just completes your burn plan - - what happened, from start time to mop-up completed time, with weather conditions, fire behavior, and challenges and the like. Good

post-burn notes will answer those questions and should include what went well, along with what should be improved next time. This type of evaluation should be done promptly after the burn is completed, with human memory of busy people being what it is. Every fire is a learning experience, and the best burners are always learning more.

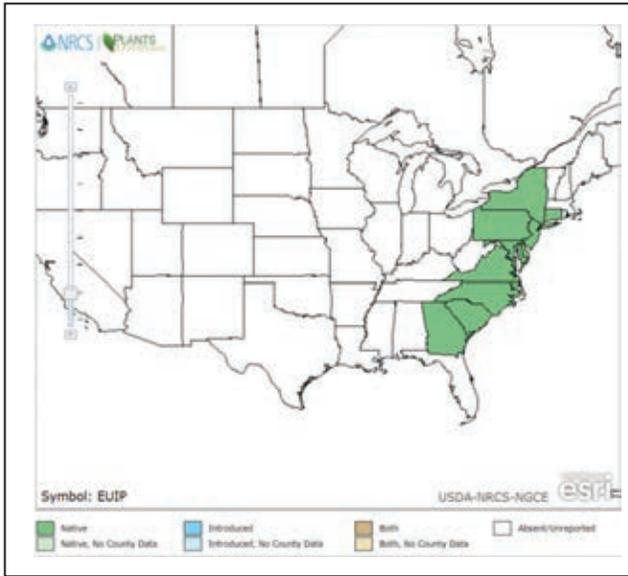
We also recommend the second kind; post-burn monitoring to determine how well did this burn accomplish your objective(s)? This need not be a highly formal step; there are many ways to make an assessment depending upon time, resources, and needs, from simple to intensive. One simple but powerful method is to establish permanent photo points to document the visual change in vegetation and stand structure over time. Photos are taken at regular intervals, perhaps after the first growing season following fire, from the same point of view, and repeated even during a non-burning year. Some use more intensive monitoring approaches like line transects to measure change in fuel loading or duff over time. Some partner agencies invest in intensive vegetation monitoring plots to track species diversity over time and repeated fires. We go to greater depth on all of these approaches in our Fire and Longleaf 201 Academy course, where students learn much more about managing for positive fire effects. Tell us more about your specific objective(s), and we can help you also.

Sincerely,  
The Longleaf Alliance

By Carol Denhof, The Longleaf Alliance

# PLANT SPOTLIGHT

*EUPHORBIA IPECACUAHNAE* L. CAROLINA IPECAC



Map showing distribution of *Carolina ipecac*. USDA PLANTS Database.



Flowering plant of *Carolina ipecac*. Photo by Carol Denhof.

## Description

*Carolina ipecac* is a plant in the genus *Euphorbia*. This species along with other plants in this group possess milky sap. Because of the deep sands in which it normally grows, *Carolina ipecac* has a very deep rootstock with spreading stems just below the ground. The herbaceous, aboveground stems grow prostrate along the ground and are branched. The opposite leaves can be highly variable – ranging from linear to elliptic to oblanceolate. It flowers in the spring from March to May. The flowers are interesting in that they have no petals, but instead have 5 greenish, yellowish, or reddish glands surrounding the flowering structure that look like petals. The single flowers are borne on long stems (up to 2.8 inches long) that originate from the leaf axils.

## Distribution & Habitat

*Carolina ipecac* is primarily a common plant of the Carolina sandhills in our region. They typically grow in very deep sands

that are found in dry longleaf pinelands and turkey oak sandhills, and especially habitats that are regularly burned. The distribution of this species goes from Connecticut to New York south to eastern Georgia.

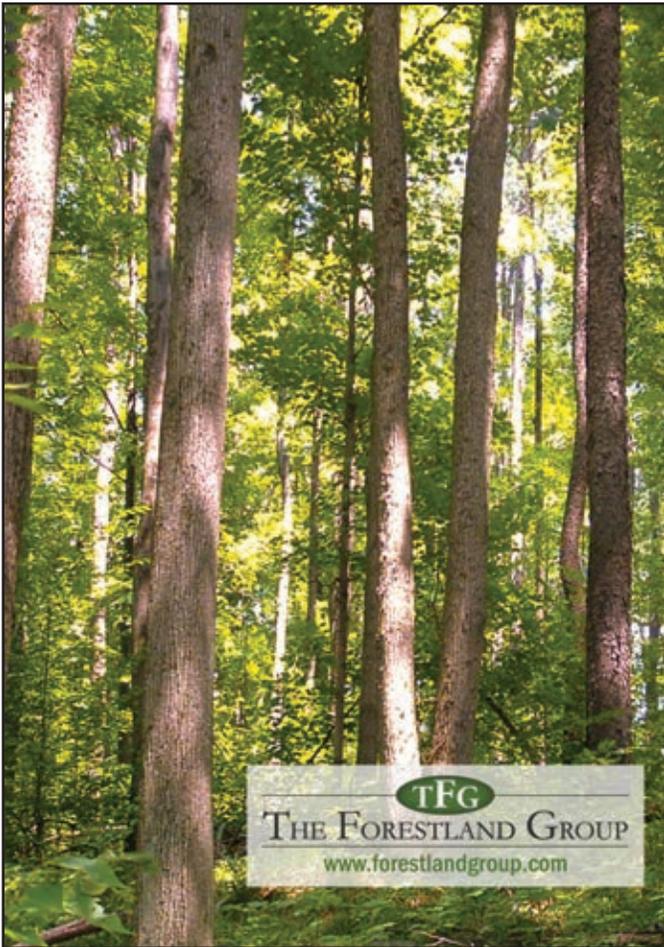
## Wildlife/Medicinal Uses

The root of *Carolina ipecac* was used by Native Americans and early settlers to North America as an effective emetic.

## References

Sorrie, B.A. 2011. *A Field Guide to Wildflowers of the Sandhills Region*. The University of North Carolina Press. Chapel Hill, NC. 378pp.

USDA, NRCS. 2019. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 11 February 2019). National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA.



*Container Loblolly and Longleaf  
Pine Seedlings*

**BODENHAMER  
FARMS & NURSERY**

---

**910/422-8118**  
FAX: 910/422-9793

**[www.bodenhamerfarms.com](http://www.bodenhamerfarms.com)**

**Louie:** 910/608-9823, [Louie@BodenhamerFarms.com](mailto:Louie@BodenhamerFarms.com)  
**Aaron:** 910/733-2760, [Aaron@BodenhamerFarms.com](mailto:Aaron@BodenhamerFarms.com)

---

Rowland, North Carolina ■ Established in 2000  
NCCA License # 5643  
Seed Lots From NC, SC & GA  
Second Generation Improved Loblolly



# RMS

**Resource Management Service, LLC**

Resource Management Service, LLC is proud to support  
the work of The Longleaf Alliance and its partners.



*By Jennifer Faucett, North Carolina State Extension*

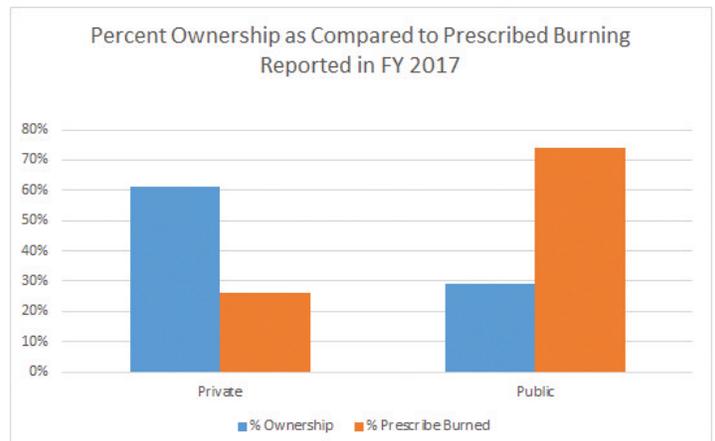
# SPARKING INTEREST & ACTION IN PRESCRIBED BURNING AMONG PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

*May 2018 Learn and Burn Class in Virginia.  
Photo by Meghan Marchetti.*

As someone with an interest in longleaf, you have probably heard the expression “longleaf is the pine that fire built.” Frequent, low-intensity fire is needed for longleaf ecosystems to remain healthy. Even after just a few years without fire, the ground cover and mid-story can be transformed into a dense thicket, just waiting for fire to return. A few more years without fire, and it may no longer even be a longleaf-dominated forest.

Private lands account for 61% of the area of existing longleaf pine (America’s Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI), 2018) (Figure 1), and the majority of additional land which could support the establishment of new longleaf pine. Therefore, the future of the longleaf ecosystem lies, in large part, in the hands of private landowners. In 2017, more than 400,000 acres of prescribed burning were reported in longleaf on private lands (ALRI, 2018). While this is impressive, this is only 26% of the total burning acreage reported (Figure 1) and is still sorely short of

what is needed to maintain a healthy longleaf ecosystem on a roughly 3-year cycle.



*Private lands account for 61% of the area of existing longleaf pine, yet made up only 26% of the total burning acreage reported in FY 2017.*

While you may already be conducting prescribed burns in your longleaf forests, your friends and neighbors may not be doing the same. This could be due to a lack of awareness of the importance of fire, weather, concerns about liability, little to no experience in burning, challenges in finding a burn contractor, or a number of other reasons. To “spark” an interest in prescribed fire among private landowners, we must address these barriers by sharing our knowledge and experience,

and building their skill levels as we mentor and assist in helping them to burn their longleaf forests. A variety of events have been taking place around the region to achieve these objectives.

First, “Learn & Burn” workshops have become popular for those landowners who want to learn how to conduct a burn. These workshops typically provide landowners with hands-on

experience, allowing participants to conduct a prescribed burn alongside experienced staff and burn mentors. This type of training allows participants to develop prescribed burning skills for forest or rangeland management and enable them to take the next step in applying fire to their land. Such next steps can include the landowner leading a burn on their own land, seeking additional training, contacting local agency personnel, or hiring a contractor to burn their land for them. More than 15 of these events have occurred across the nine states of the longleaf range since 2014, reaching more than 500 people who own or manage over 1 million acres. From a participant survey of nine different SERPPAS-supported “Learn & Burn” workshops that took place from 2014-2017, the percent of respondents that had not used prescribed fire on their land decreased from 25% before attending to 14% at least one year after the workshop. The number of landowners who burned their land increased from 48% to 59%. To learn more about Learn & Burn field days, or tips on how to conduct one in your area, visit this website:

<http://go.ncsu.edu/learnandburn>.

In some cases, motivated landowners have joined together to create landowner-led Prescribed Burn Associations or PBAs. A PBA is a group of local landowners and other concerned citizens that form a partnership to conduct prescribed burns. PBAs can bring together agencies, contractors, and landowners with different levels of experience, providing landowners with the skills and confidence they need to take immediate next steps in becoming prescribed fire practitioners. PBAs are important because they help to address several of the known barriers to burning including liability and insurance concerns, lack of capacity, lack of training and/or experience, resource concerns (including limited access to equipment), and narrow burn windows (Diaz et al., 2016). PBA members pool their knowledge, manpower, and equipment to help other people in their association conduct prescribed burns, while also allowing the opportunity for inexperienced burners to learn from their more experienced peers.

There are currently more than 60 PBAs across 11 states. PBAs have existed on rangelands in the mid-west for many years, but now also exist in forested places like the North

Carolina Sandhills and North Florida, and more are getting started! In addition, some landowner forestry associations include burning as part of their work. Since they began in 2016, the North Carolina Sandhills PBA has had more than 250 landowners sign up to receive information on burning and training opportunities, with 112 of those landowners participating in 14 landowner-led burns in 2018, and 18 landowners becoming NC Certified Burn Managers. Assisted by the partners in the Ocala Local Implementation Team, the North Florida Prescribed Burn Association (NFPBA), formed in January 2018, is a landowner cooperative covering 16 North

Florida counties. In the last year, NFPBA has burned over 600 acres involving approximately 20 members ranging from novice to expert burners. You can learn more about PBAs here: <https://go.ncsu.edu/pba>.

In addition to the aforementioned hands-on experiences, all states in the South provide Certified Burn Manager courses, which are supported, and usually taught, by state forestry agencies. Becoming a Certified Burn Manager provides some degree of liability protection when coupled with a proper burn plan; this protection varies by state. While these courses also vary from state to state in terms of format, length, cost, and

post-course work, they all provide a general overview of prescribed burning, usually including topics such as smoke management, laws and liability, and firing techniques. These courses are intended for those people who will be conducting prescribed burns, but anyone interested in prescribed fire can attend. To learn more about available courses in your state, contact your county ranger or state forestry agency.

By attending prescribed fire presentations, workshops, or field days, landowners who are unable to or do not want to conduct their own burns are still provided the opportunity to understand the benefits of prescribed fire, connect with other landowners in their area, and possibly even meet some contractors or agency staff that could help to burn their property for them. Events that include a demonstration burn further allow the participants to see how fire behaves and to have a better understanding of how prescribed burns work. Prescribed Fire Councils will often host these events, in



*Anne and Fletcher Wright (center), North Carolina Longleaf Honor Roll recipients, were honored for their dedication to actively managing their longleaf with regular prescribed fire. Pictured with NC Longleaf Coalition representatives Sarah Crate (left) and John Ann Shearer (right). Photo by Susan Miller.*

addition to sharing resources and information. Councils are found in every Southern state, and typically meet one to two times a year; meetings can consist of presentations, reports, updates, networking, and field trips. To learn more and find a

events mentioned here, and your longleaf is being burned at the proper frequency. If so, become a champion for prescribed burning and spread the good word to your fellow neighbors! If not, what are you waiting for?!



North Florida Prescribed Burn Association booth at the Flatwoods Fire & Nature Festival in Gainesville, FL. Photo by Ashley Lynn Pardee.

Council in your state, visit: <https://go.ncsu.edu/rxfirecouncils>.

Fire festivals have been a hugely successful way to reach the general public about the importance and need of prescribed fire. Festivals have been held all over the South, with some reaching almost 10,000 people! These festivals usually include family-friendly music, food trucks, games, booths, a demonstration burn, and always include an emphasis on good fire! In 2018 the Southern Fire Exchange hosted a webinar on lessons learned from planning and coordinating fire festivals, which you can watch here: <https://youtu.be/jpf03djnQeg>.

Some states also have other types of programs that include prescribed burning. For example, in North Carolina, the North Carolina Longleaf Honor Roll is a landowner recognition program that honors private landowners who are actively managing their longleaf forests, and more specifically, focuses on prescribed fire as the key management tool for longleaf. To be part of the Honor Roll, landowners must regularly burn their woods (and have a forest management plan). Honor Roll recipients are longleaf champions, but also burning champions. By identifying Honor Roll recipients, they are being thanked for their part in restoring longleaf, but we are also sharing the good fire story with neighbors and encouraging others to “get in that burn” so they may too join the prestigious Honor Roll.

Hopefully, you’ve had the chance to attend some of the

#### References

America’s Longleaf Restoration Initiative. 2018. *2017 Range-wide Accomplishment Report*. 16 pp. Available at: [americaslongleaf.org/media/26741/2017-accomplishment-report.pdf](http://americaslongleaf.org/media/26741/2017-accomplishment-report.pdf)

Diaz, John, Jennifer E. Fawcett, and John Weir. 2016. *The Value of Forming a Prescribed Burn Association*. SFE Fact Sheet 2016-2. Available at: [southernfireexchange.org/SFE\\_Publications/factsheets/2016-2.pdf](http://southernfireexchange.org/SFE_Publications/factsheets/2016-2.pdf)

Longleaf Pine Needle Baskets  
and Red Clay Pie Plates

HessPOTTERY.COM  
NeedlesandClay on Etsy  
(bit.ly/LongLeaf)



*Possibility begins with **empowering you.***

No one knows forest management quite like you. But that will never keep us from nurturing the relationships you've grown to value with us as Crop Production Services. And now with even broader resources and capabilities, your Nutrien Solutions location is even more equipped to help you become a more capable forest land manager, or owner than ever.  
[nutrienagsolutions.com](http://nutrienagsolutions.com)

**Nutrien**  
Solutions

Visit your local Nutrien Solutions location today.  
870.367.8561  
[Gordon.Forster@nutrien.com](mailto:Gordon.Forster@nutrien.com)



**GreenAssets®**

**A Leading Forest Carbon Offset Developer**

*"Landowners Working with Landowners"*

[www.green-assets.com](http://www.green-assets.com)

2018

By Mark Melvin, Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway

# National Prescribed Fire Use Survey Report Released

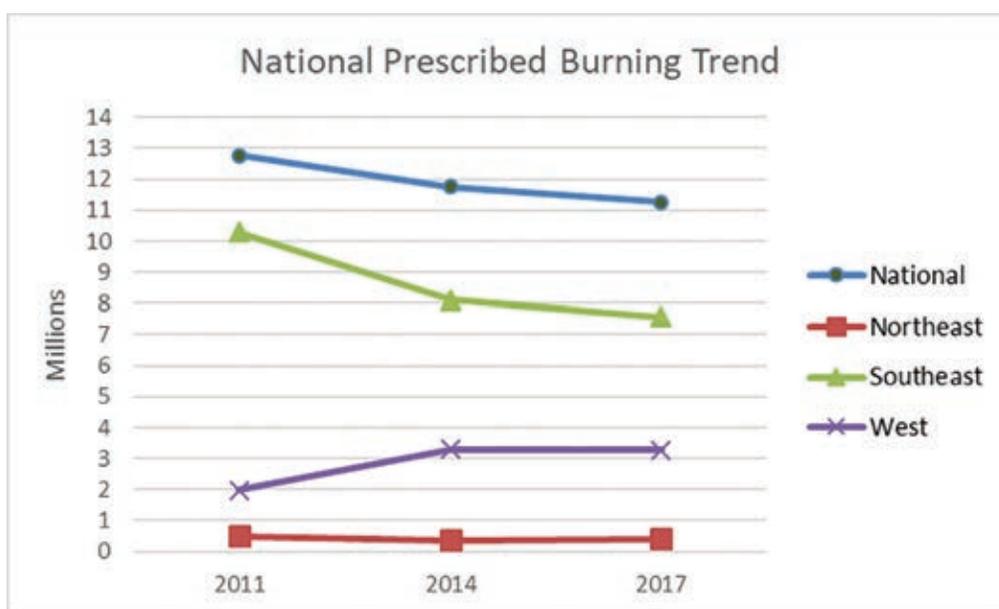


Figure 1: Comparison of national and regional prescribed burned acres across survey years

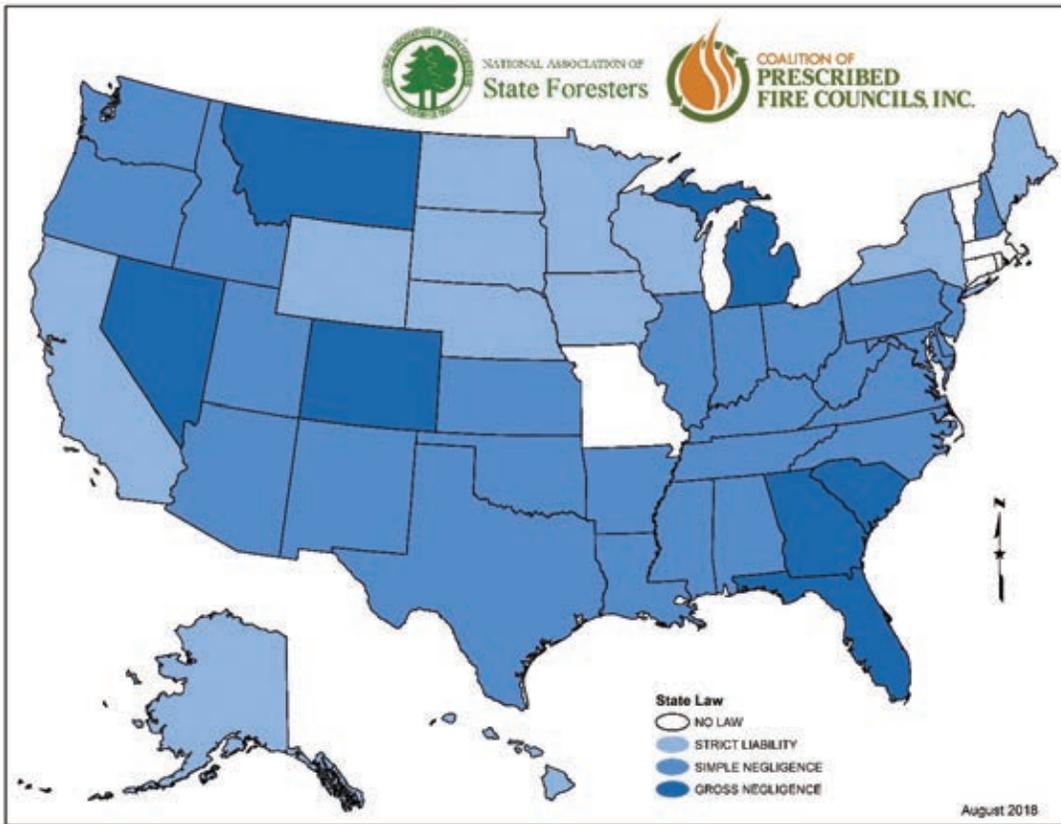
The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) and the Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils (CPFC) released their 2018 National Prescribed Fire Use Survey Report in early December 2018. Since 2012, the two organizations have partnered every three years to produce these unique reports that investigate the challenges state forestry agencies navigate while managing prescribed fire programs across the United States. States tend to operate independently to develop policy and regulations that work best for their own interests. As a result, prescribed fire programs can differ greatly by state and region, making it especially important to explore and understand the state's perspectives.

The 2018 report follows the same precedent of asking all 50 state forestry agencies questions centered on three themes: 1) the scale and purpose of prescribed fire use, 2) state-level programs and requirements that support prescribed fire activity, and 3) identifying factors that limit the use of prescribed fire. The survey uses 2017 prescribed fire activity and utilizes previous reports to illustrate and describe trends.

This fire intelligence is necessary to help guide the efforts of decision makers, researchers, prescribed fire councils, and academia, as well as policy by wildland fire and environmental quality agencies.

The results showed that a total of 11.3 million acres were treated with prescribed fire during 2017. The primary objective was for forestry/rangeland purposes (80%), and the balance was for agricultural uses. The Southeast, particularly states located in the historical range of longleaf pine, led the nation in total acres (7.6 million). Consistent with previous surveys Georgia, Florida, Kansas, and Oklahoma all burned 1+ million acres, but for the first time, some states reported burning 0 acres. The West reported a total of 3.3 million acres, which represents a regional increase over previous surveys. Despite this increase in burn acres in the West, the Southeast and the Northeast, as well as the nation as a whole, experienced a decline in total prescribed fire acres. The national total is down 12% from 12.8 million acres in 2011 (Figure 1).

For the first time, states were asked to identify the degree of



*Figure 2: Map illustrates the degree of liability as defined in each state's prescribed fire statute(s). Five (10%) have no prescribed fire law, 12 (24%) have strict liability, 26 (52%) have simple negligence, and 7 (14%) have gross negligence liability.*

liability associated with prescribed fire as defined in their state statute(s) (Figure 2). Prescribed fire laws fall into one of three categories which provide an increasing level of protection to the prescribed fire practitioner: 1) strict liability, 2) simple negligence, or 3) gross negligence. Unexpectedly, many states struggled to understand their exact status. Several common reasons were identified that caused the uncertainty:

- 1) Law predates the term prescribed fire (circa 1940s) thus not specifically mentioned
- 2) Multiple state agencies share legal jurisdiction concerning wildland fire and can have differing interpretations
- 3) Law does not adequately differentiate arson and prescribed fires, or multiple laws concerning wildland fire and arson fires are conflicting
- 4) No case law, i.e., law has not been tested

Now with three completed surveys, fire use trends are emerging, and patterns of limitations on the use of prescribed fire are solidifying. Prescribed fire intelligence has improved as a result of these fire use surveys, with a concomitant increase in the reliability of available prescribed fire tracking data. With a downward trend in national prescribed fire usage since 2011, it is imperative that we examine regional and national challenges to prescribed fire usage and begin to develop strategies to overcome these obstacles. To quote Stephen Pyne, "The future promises to be messy, but it has always been messy. Fire doesn't make for clarity. The world seen through flames flickers and smudges. But it's a better world than one without."

Visit [www.prescribedfire.net](http://www.prescribedfire.net) for a free copy of the complete report.

**Templin Forestry, Inc.**

2022 N. MacArthur Drive  
Alexandria, LA 71301  
(318) 445-5566 | Fax: (318) 445-4422  
[www.templinforestry.com](http://www.templinforestry.com)

**COMPREHENSIVE FOREST  
MANAGEMENT SERVICES**  
Louisiana State Certified General Appraiser

**Steven K. Templin, ACF**

*Dianne and Salem at capitol on fly-in with AFF. Photo courtesy of Salem Saloom.*

# LANDOWNER SPOTLIGHT

*By Salem & Dianne Saloom, with Ad Platt, The Longleaf Alliance*



## SALEM AND DIANNE SALOOM

*Stewards Evangelizing for Longleaf*

*In 1983 Salem, Dianne, and Patrick Saloom purchased their first 160 acres in Conecuh County, Alabama. Forty of those original acres were previously row cropped resulting in active gully erosion. They planted this to loblolly pines in 1986 to help stabilize the soils.*

Our initial interest was turkey and deer hunting and learning about land management so that we might become good stewards of this property. Like many landowners, we soon wanted to acquire adjoining lands. In 1985, after negotiating with 36 heirs, we purchased an adjacent 40-acre parcel. By continuing to expand our interests over the years, we've now accumulated 2200 acres through 11 different transactions; 1840 of these are contiguous. A side benefit of all these transactions and negotiations with large timber companies, individuals, corporations, REITS, and 1031 exchanges has been many lasting relationships. We incorporated in 1996 as Saloom Properties, LLC.

We are intimately connected with the land, wearing out boot leather and investing elbow grease and time in silviculture and stewardship practices. We feel we experience the old cliché of becoming "one with the land," and we believe that our mission at Saloom Properties, LLC is to be "good stewards of God's creation," actively sharing and educating others in what is

good.

Forestry friends and other landowners helped show us the value in becoming an Alabama TREASURE Forest in 1985 and becoming certified with the American Tree Farm System in 1986. Early on, we realized the value of having a consultant forester, and this relationship has grown to be invaluable over these last 32 years.

For us, actively participating in stewardship has transcended our hard work into a passion. The privilege to plan and initiate forestry and silviculture practices allows us to see the fruits of that passion. We were not raised on the land, but we were raised with the values of hard work and dedication. Through jobs, Scouts, and by living church we were prepared for citizenship, stewardship, and a relationship with God in Nature.

There have been setbacks. In 2004 Hurricane Ivan destroyed our forest. Ivan laid our timber on the ground, and by that, we mean twisted, snapped off, windthrown, and uprooted. Thanks to the relationships we had built with our consultant and the Alabama Forestry Commission, we were able to begin salvage logging one week after the storm, long before the power was restored. We spent the next five months salvaging timber



*Dianne at crafts table at Classroom in the Forest. Photo by Salem Saloom.*



*Dianne and Salem at property entrance. Photo courtesy of Salem Saloom.*

and cleaning up, and our mantra was to make this forest better than it was before. Eventually, we were able to capture about 40% of the original value, which is far more than typical after such an event. But Ivan had brought us another challenge; as a result of the storm and logging, invasive species such as cogon grass emerged on our land, and we still combat them today.

We devoted the proceeds from the salvage to restoring our forest lands. Through a lot of research and discussions with numerous consultants, primarily with Rhett Johnson and The Longleaf Alliance, we decided to begin transitioning into longleaf pine. Lessons learned from one of the early Longleaf Academy 101 classes were instrumental in shaping this transition. We planted our first longleaf on 156 acres in 2006. To date, we have established over 1,000 acres in longleaf and manage for ecosystem recovery with prescribed fire, invasive species treatments, thinning, and other silviculture practices. These efforts have created more habitat for gopher tortoises on our property, and we feel fortunate to claim this threatened keystone species.

We would credit a number of organizations with helping us become better stewards of our land. Our association with the Alabama TREASURE Forest led us to the American Forest Foundation/Tree Farm and deepened our connections with the Alabama Forestry Commission, two more invaluable resources for learnings in applied forestry. Since 2004 we have educated ourselves in planting and managing longleaf and its ecosystem. The Longleaf Alliance with its myriad assets of expertise and educational opportunities and cost assistance program through



*Congresswoman Martha Roby visiting our tree farm. Photo courtesy of Salem Saloom.*

its National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grants has been invaluable.

Through partnerships with The Longleaf Alliance, the American Forest Foundation, and the National Wild Turkey Federation we have learned how important it is to advocate for and help shape policies on the federal, state, and local levels that assist private landowners. We have worked with these organizations in the last three Farm Bills, to make sure that private landowners have the tools and resources to not only manage their woodlands but to improve their lands. We credit Chris Erwin (AFF) for helping us step into policy and advocacy for what we hold dear. AFF provided us with some early training and helped us realize that our elected officials are both hospitable and

need to know how they can help.

We believe that land ownership comes with a responsibility for not only being a good steward of the land but also promoting that stewardship and building relationships through education and service. We practice our belief by hosting landowner field days and educational programs at our Tree Farm. We were honored to receive the 2010 National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award, yet feel our responsibilities continue, and so our involvement has increased. One way we instill the idea of stewardship has been by hosting the "Forest in the Classroom" program for the last 12 years with our Conecuh County 5th graders, with a lot of help from our County Forestry Planning Committee. We seek opportunities to speak in many programs and meetings and are active on Boards and Commissions, Councils and Committees within the forestry world. They would all welcome your help too!

But going back to 2004, when we experienced the devastation of Hurricane Ivan, I do not think that we would have made the tremendous leap to improve our forest without the incentives and assistance from the USDA-NRCS. Their Hurricane Recovery aid through EQIP, WHIP, and Invasive Species control programs, along with changing tax benefits and the Prescribed Fire Burn Manager Education helped change our trajectory. Our partnership with NRCS, NFWF, and the LLA within these reforestation programs has not only assisted us in planting and managing longleaf but also encouraged us in 2013 to sign the first 30-year Memorandum of Agreement

between the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources overseeing this agreement with US Fish and Wildlife in Alabama. The objectives of this agreement are the management and conservation of the gopher tortoise and its habitat on Saloom Properties, LLC.

One thing that sets The Longleaf Alliance apart from many conservation organizations is the availability of applied longleaf research and science in helping landowners to plant and



*Galli helping to keep Rx fire under control.  
Photo by Salem Saloom.*

maintain longleaf. One phone call or email expedites a quick response from the many talented and gifted LLA employees. Their knowledge and ability to assist landowners to become successful is priceless. The Alliance's partnerships with other groups such as The American Forest Foundation/Tree Farm, State Forestry Commissions, other conservation organizations, and all the partners on the Longleaf Partnership Council will make the 8 million acres of longleaf by 2025 come to fruition. It is invaluable to be a part of these organizations.

We are frequently asked, "Why are you planting longleaf?" Our objectives include timber and wildlife

equally, as we are restoring an ecosystem. Simply put, we want to have a forest that we can enjoy every day while it becomes more valuable every day. Our objectives range from 3 to 400 years, and include managing, improving, promoting so that all of society enjoys the benefits our forests give. We like to evangelize for longleaf. And helping to restore this ecosystem, with all the surprises and enjoyment that brings, is at least for us one way of experiencing God in the most profound way.

# Outdoor Insurance SIMPLIFIED.

*Protect your timber investment today!*

The team at Outdoor Underwriters has more than 30 years of experience in the outdoor insurance industry and have designed programs to meet the needs of timberland owners nationwide. Protect your timber investment with coverage from Outdoor Underwriters.

To learn more call 866.961.4101 or visit [outdoorund.com](http://outdoorund.com)

#### Available Coverages:

- Hunt Lease Liability Insurance
- Timberland Liability
- Tractors, ATVs & Implements
- and much more....



Be a  
**PROUD** Steward  
of a  
**Beautiful,  
Profitable  
Forest**

*Get Seedlings & Support to Help You  
Make the Most of Your Family's Land*

1

**Contact Your  
Reforestation  
Advisor**

Set your goals and  
create a customized  
seedling plan utilizing your  
RA's extensive forestry  
experience

2

**Prepare Your  
Land & Plant  
Your Seedlings**

Feel secure knowing  
your reforestation  
partners are here  
whenever you need us

3

**Feel Proud  
and  
Confident**

Watch your family's  
beautiful forest and  
future profits grow!



**ArborGen**  
The Reforestation Advantage

**ArborGen.com**  
**855.894.1702**

By Gary Burger, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

## Update from the Longleaf Partnership Council

# TEACHING FIRE CULTURE IN TODAY'S WORLD

I have always been a grassroots kind of guy. The members of the Longleaf Partnership Council probably get tired of me continually standing up for the “little guy,” and espousing my view that the way to change the culture around longleaf is one landowner at a time. The fact is that these folks own the vast majority of the land in the longleaf range. Don't get me wrong, I fully understand and greatly appreciate the wonderful work of our federal and state partners (I am one of those too) who manage large longleaf landholdings, at scale. There is no doubt that the expert management of the National Forests, DOD Installations, National Wildlife Refuges, State Forests and Wildlife Management Areas, and other landscapes of longleaf is enormously important to the longleaf world. They serve as bastions of intact longleaf ecosystems and are vital to the myriad of species, many threatened and endangered, that depend on them. They also serve as wonderful examples and learning opportunities for those small non-industrial private forest landowners that I harp on all the time. Despite some general criticism by the few, which never seems to go away, these beautifully maintained public landscapes of intact longleaf ecosystems are easily identified by most as what Mother Nature intended. A little explanation is required sometimes, but the public generally gets it when it is put to them. Often the necessary explanation surrounds the role that fire plays in the whole deal because the inherent cultural knowledge that fire is an important natural process has dramatically faded in our culture...but that can, and is, changing, one person at a time.

The Longleaf Partnership Council and its partners are taking the pro-fire message to the people in a whole host of innovative ways. Local Implementation Teams across the range are engaging landowners with Learn-to-Burn workshops, where they

get the chance to not only hear about the many benefits of prescribed burning but also participate in actual live fires. There is no substitute for hands-on learning, and taking first-timers and novices out onto actual fires is a great way to build the burning force. We had the pleasure of hearing Rhett Johnson, co-founder of The Longleaf Alliance, speak at our last SC

Prescribed Fire Council meeting. It was fascinating to hear him recount his younger days of burning on their family land. They were so intimately familiar with the land that they would light a fire in the afternoon and know that when they came back the next day, it would have moved down “toward the branch somewhere.” That's not the way it works nowadays, with smoke regulations, private land parcelization, and grouchy neighbors, but it is important for folks to learn and understand that they too can use fire in a positive way on their own land. They can do it too, but breaking down the barrier of “fear of fire” takes show-and-tell. Thankfully, the LITs aren't having any trouble filling these workshops with willing and interested landowners, young and old... changing the culture, one person at a time.

Another innovative educational technique that the LITs are using to

promote the wise use of fire is through the hosting of local Fire Festivals which offers fun and games for kids and families paired with fire demonstrations and cool prescribed fire gear, utility vehicles, and bulldozers. We've even got our own big fuzzy mascot now, Burner Bob; what kid could pass that up! I couldn't and had to take my picture with him. What a fantastic way to captivate the attention of the next generation of potential prescribed fire advocates, and maybe even future practitioners! Make no mistake; the grown-ups are listening too, while they're enjoying the food and drinks. Perhaps the next time they see a smoke plume or smell a little woods smoke in the air, they'll



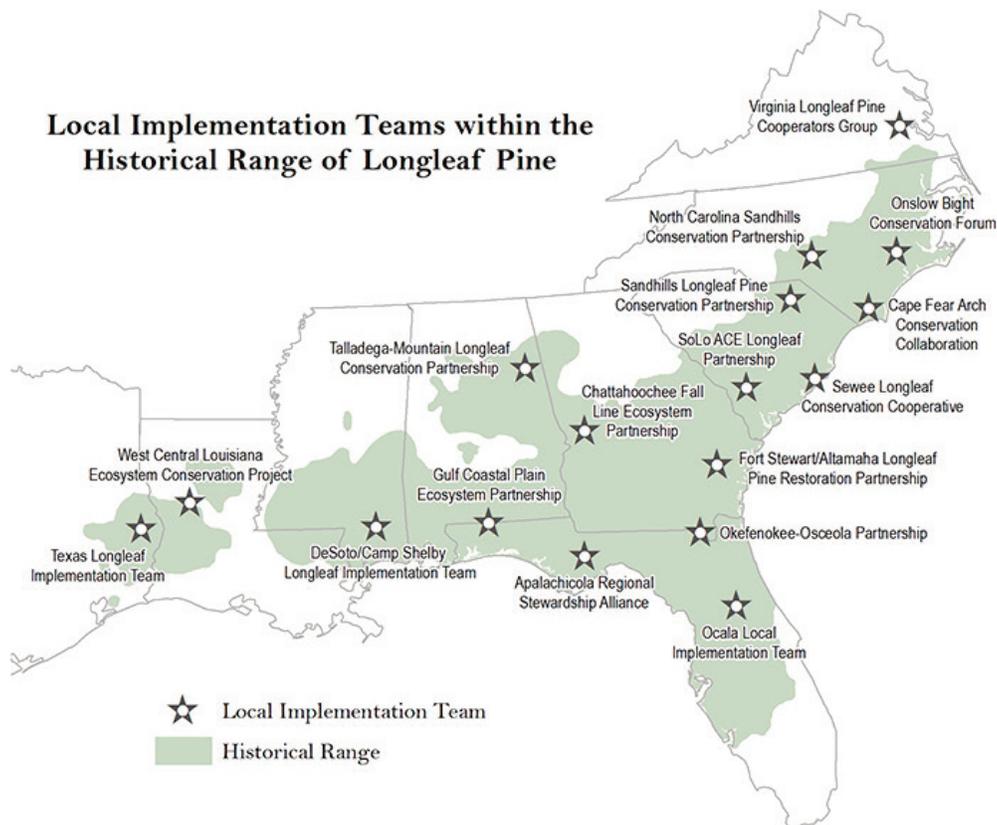
*Gary Burger with Burner Bob at the 12th Biennial Longleaf Conference*

know exactly what's going on, and tell their friends that it's all part of Mother Nature's plan and that they should all be appreciative that someone is doing that work. It's protecting their homes and producing a whole host of forest, wildlife, social, and economic benefits. Maybe they'll spread the good news... one person at a time.

Finally, and my personal favorite is hands-on mentoring. Many of our LPC and LIT members and the whole range of land managers that work in the represented agencies, companies, and various hierarchies, are wonderful teachers and love to take folks under their wing and out onto the fire line. I have had the pleasure of introducing a number of landowners to prescribed fire, on the ground, and am proud to say that many have become independent burners. Just recently, my good friend and long-time burning buddy, Greg Boozer, brought his son Hayden along on a couple of our prescribed burns. I guess you'd call him a "willing participant," he was looking to earn some bucks for the prom. The first day, I'm certain we overwhelmed him with our vast knowledge of the benefits of fire and how to correctly and safely apply it, but nonetheless he came back the next weekend. After having to show him what to do the first day, it was cool on the second day to see him fill up the drip torch, get on the radio,

and string fire like he enjoyed it. It's going on all across the longleaf range because of all of the great mentors in the longleaf community. Creating competent new burners, who will hopefully carry the torch through their lives, and pass it down...one person at a time.

Maybe I'm just an optimist, but I like to think that the efforts of the Longleaf Partnership Council, the Local Implementation Teams, and all of the associated partners and longleaf supporters are having an effect. The issues surrounding wildland-urban interfaces, the growing frequency and intensity of wildfires influenced by human interactions, and just population growth, in general, are difficult challenges indeed. But they in themselves are also opportunities to educate and advocate. I am glad that there are also members of the Longleaf Partnership Council and the greater longleaf world that are willing, able, and astute enough to work on these types of major policy issues. Ultimately, it does take a multi-faceted, multi-level approach to change the inherent culture surrounding anything in our world today. The wise-use of fire to maintain and restore the wonderful longleaf ecosystems that we all love is one of the toughest and most complex challenges we face. But we're meeting that challenge, all of us together...and one person at a time.



## Wallwood Longleaf Challenge Brings Pines, ARSA Staff to Youth

By Brian Pelc, Restoration Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy



*Prescribed Fire demo for participants at the 2019 Wallwood Longleaf Challenge. Photo by S. Hunnicutt.*

The second, biennial Wallwood Longleaf Challenge gave 130 youth and 50 adult companions the chance to explore the ins and outs of the longleaf ecosystem in the eastern portion of the Florida Panhandle. When it was over, there was little doubt from the 12 rotations of boy and girl scouts that the Ignition Tools station was the best. How can drip torches and dragon eggs go wrong? ARSA members didn't have to address that question. Meanwhile, a dozen other stations including RCW Management, Gopher Tortoise Ecology, Fire Ecology, WUI/FireWise, Groundcover Restoration, Timber Management, Tree ID, a live fire demonstration and more, were all coordinated by ARSA staff to complete the requirements of the Boy Scouts of America Forestry merit badge and the highly coveted 2019 Wallwood Longleaf Challenge patch. Partners from federal, state and non-profit agencies worked for six months to update the weekend-long event, which culminated on Sunday morning with a service project hand removing loblolly regeneration in the Wallwood Scout Reservation's 22-acre

longleaf reforestation area. In 2021, ARSA will bring the Challenge back for another round of longleaf related stations and hopes of expanding the youth participation past 200.

## Partners Advance Longleaf Ecosystem Restoration in the GCPEP Landscape

By Vernon Compton, GCPEP Director, The Longleaf Alliance



*Longleaf Forest. Photo by Vernon Compton.*

Two important land protection projects were recently completed in the GCPEP landscape. The Trust for Public Land worked with partners to acquire 800 acres within the Florida Forever Wolfe Creek Forest project area. The acquired property was added to Blackwater River State Forest and includes over two miles of frontage on Big Coldwater Creek. The acquisition will better buffer Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field, helping to ensure that land adjacent to the base will not be incompatibly developed in ways that could limit flight operations and vital military training. NAS Whiting Field is the busiest aviation complex in the world, accounting for nearly 1.1 million annual flight operations. The project will also protect water resources, public recreational activities, bird migration, and habitat for endangered species and other wildlife, all while

furthering longleaf restoration. Funding for the acquisition came from the U.S. Forest Service through the Forest Legacy Program, administered through the Florida Forest Service, and the U.S. Navy through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program. Project partners included Santa Rosa County, the Navy, Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Trust for Public Land.

The Conservation Fund also worked with the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Resource Management Service, LLC (RMS) to establish a 3,719-acre conservation easement that will restore longleaf pine habitat, provide habitat for imperiled species, protect water quality and quantity in the Gulf of Mexico, and provide other environmental and economic benefits. With funding from the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), the conservation easement will restrict development and require restoration of longleaf pine while keeping the land as a sustainable working forest. The easement is the first of an initiative being led by The Conservation Fund and RMS to establish a landscape-scale model for restoring and conserving longleaf habitat on privately owned land.

The GCPEP partners thank those who fund important conservation work in the GCPEP landscape, allowing longleaf ecosystem restoration to be advanced. Recently those partners include the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Longleaf Stewardship Fund, Southern Company, Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program, U.S. Forest Service, Navy, National Wild Turkey Federation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Gulf Power through an Amplify Grant. Thank you for the crucial role you are playing in recovering this dynamic and diverse ecosystem.

## Orienne Society Indigo Snake Preserve Hosts LIT Learn & Burn Day

By Randy Tate, *The Longleaf Alliance*



*Practice burn during the Learn & Burn Day. Photo by Randy Tate.*

Aided by a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) to the NC State Extension, the Fort Stewart/Altamaha Longleaf Partnership held a Learn & Burn Day at the Orienne Indigo Snake Preserve. Fifteen attendees, mostly landowners, received expert training in both a classroom setting and in applying fire in the field. Learn & Burn Days have been held in several states with Longleaf LITs.

The Learn & Burn Day concept is, after some basic training, a good opportunity for landowners and others who want to begin burning to get a drip torch in their hands and let them burn. In the words of one attendee, “This is the first burn training I’ve ever taken where we actually burned something.”

The morning classroom training included burn planning, objectives and preparation, firing techniques, Georgia burn laws, smoke management, and cost-share programs. Then the fun began. Fire management professionals from The Orienne Society, GA DNR, GA TNC and The Longleaf Alliance were paired with Learn & Burners to burn a 19-acre burn unit of longleaf and slash pine. Each attendee was paired with two mentors, and all attendees got to drag a drip torch and try different firing techniques.

The NRCS hopes that by funding these events, some of the backlogged longleaf planted through cost-share programs will begin to get burned. Everyone at this event went home knowing a good bit more about prescribed burning and vowed to get more fire on their lands.

## New Rx Burn Trailer Provides Equipment for Private Landowners

By LuAnn Craighton, *The Nature Conservancy* and RT Lumpkin, *Georgia Forestry Commission*



*Rx fire equipment now available for private landowners to rent. Photo by RT Lumpkin.*

The Chattahoochee Fall Line Prescribed Fire Co-Op, led by the Georgia Forestry Commission, is working with private landowners to create a greater awareness of the benefits of prescribed fire as a land management tool. Increased acceptance of prescribed fire coupled with new training opportunities and the availability of appropriate equipment will allow more private landowners to take the lead in burning their own property. A survey of West Central Georgia Forest Landowner Association members indicated more landowners would burn if they had the proper tools available. An Rx Burn Trailer, equipped with the tools most commonly used to execute a prescribed fire, was created to meet this need. The trailer also provides equipment landowners may not opt to purchase individually but which make burning activities safer, more efficient, and provide desirable conservation

outcomes. The Rx Burn Trailer will also support “Learn & Burn” training events designed to provide landowners with hands-on experience in prescribed burning techniques.

Local donations and grants were secured to execute the Burn Trailer project with no state funds being expended. Project sponsors include National Wild Turkey Federation, Flint Energies, The Nature Conservancy, Odyssey Printing, SERPASS, and Dent True Value Hardware.

The trailer is available to rent (\$100/day) and is designed to serve a seven-county area across the Fall Line region in west central Georgia. Rental fees will be re-invested in the equipment to support repairs and maintenance. For more information about the Rx Burn Trailer, contact RT Lumpkin (rlumpkin@ gfc.state.ga.us) and follow the West Central Georgia Forest Landowner Association on Facebook.

## Cape Fear Arch and Onslow Bight Update

By Michelle Ly, *The Nature Conservancy*



*Snapped red-cockaded woodpecker tree after Hurricane Florence. Photo by Andy Walker, Croatan National Forest.*

Tropical storms and hurricanes are normal occurrences on the east and gulf coast, but in 2018 we saw far more damage than a normal year. North Carolina is still bearing the devastating effects from Hurricane Florence when it came ashore September 14th, 2018. Partners across the Cape Fear Arch and Onslow Bight regions have seen varying degrees of damage ranging from properties with little damage to some that look like a tornado hit. The biggest losses affected infrastructure due to record-breaking flooding and high winds. Roads to some preserves were completely washed out making access to some properties impossible.

In total, Croatan National Forest and Camp Lejeune lost 306 cavity trees that are homes to the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW). RCWs and their nesting cavities play a vital role in the southeastern pine ecosystem affecting many other birds and small mammals. Managing and restoring longleaf pine forests in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence are even more crucial to the region to ensure these endangered birds have future homes.

Although Hurricane Florence's aftermath seems overwhelming, huge efforts are underway to mitigate the damages left behind. Both private and public conservation groups have adjusted their planning and protocol in response to the disaster. Croatan National Forest installed 112 artificial cavities within two weeks of the storm hoping to provide homes for

displaced RCWs. Thousands of dollars are being spent to repair and replace roads, culverts, postings and gates. There's still much left to do, but we have already started to see the benefits of conservation recovery after Hurricane Florence.

## North Florida Prescribed Burn Association Making a Difference

By Charlie Farr, *Vice President North Florida Prescribed Burn Association*



*North Florida PBA prescribed burn January 2018. Photo by Dennis Wiggins.*

Assisted by the partners in the Ocala Local Implementation Team, the North Florida Prescribed Burn Association (NFPBA), formed in January 2018, is a landowner cooperative covering 16 North Florida counties. In the last year, NFPBA burned over 600 acres involving approximately 20 members ranging from novice to expert burners. Working in concert with Alachua Conservation Trust and former Florida Forest Service employee, Barry Coulliette, NFPBA has identified, visited and is working with scores of private landowners who will benefit from prescribed fire use. Fire lines have been plowed, burn block maps prepared, and methods established to ensure equipment and volunteers are available for burns. NFPBA actively tracks the numbers of burns, acres burned and, in the future, numbers and types of volunteer hours.

NFPBA has also held training classes and informative fire-related lectures on Florida fire weather, heat-related illness on the fire-line, as well as Florida laws regarding open burning. To reach a wider audience, NFPBA recently had an information booth and volunteered at the inaugural Flatwoods Fire and Nature Festival at Austin Cary Forest near Gainesville, Florida.

*NFPBA is a Florida non-profit 501c3 corporation, and the website is [northfloridapba.org](http://northfloridapba.org).*

## South Carolina Sandhills Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership Update

By Susan Griggs, Natural Resources Conservation Service



*Seed collection on private property in South Carolina. Photo by Susan Griggs.*

The SC Sandhills Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership (SLPCP) was able to “spread the wealth” into North Carolina recently, joining forces with the NC Sandhills LIT to assist landowners in establishing native understory vegetation in longleaf stands.

Native ecotype seeds collected by the SLPCP were shared with eight landowners participating with the NC LIT. These have been planted both to improve understory for wildlife and establish a seed source which hopefully will spread across the properties in time.

According to Charles Babb, Coordinator for the SLPCP, “Last year was an excellent seed collection year, and as a result, we had more seed than our landowners could use. We realized it would be a great opportunity to share with our NC neighbor to help reach the common goal of restoration.”

Babb reached out to Jesse Wimberley, Sandhills Area Land Trust Outreach Coordinator, who identified landowners wanting to re-establish wiregrass and native flowers. Wimberley identified eight landowners to plant 15 acres of the seed mixture collected from the Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge and a privately owned site.

“It was a great opportunity to partner with the SLPCP to provide our landowners with locally sourced, no-cost seed,” said Wimberley. “It’s also great for landowners living close to the SC border to know that they have another source of assistance in the SC LIT.”

Grant funds from a 2014 National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Longleaf Stewardship Fund grant allowed the SLPCP to purchase seed harvesting equipment which has been used to collect enough seed to establish 125 acres of native understory to date.

## South Lowcountry – ACE Basin (SoLoACE) Longleaf Partnership Update

By Bobby Franklin, The Longleaf Alliance



*Prescribed fire on private land in Bamberg County, SC. Photo by Bobby Franklin.*

Winter found prescribed burning season starting in the SoLoACE Longleaf Partnership as many of our partners were using every opportunity to get more fire back on the landscape in the region. March was Prescribed Fire Awareness Month in South Carolina as proclaimed by South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster. February brought another successful Longleaf & Herbicide Academy led by Ryan Mitchell and Karen Brown. A special thanks to our sponsors and especially our host, the South Carolina Forestry Commission’s Harbison Environmental Education Center. We also partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help restore a tract along Strom Thurmond Reservoir in McCormick County. This is a rare Piedmont/Montane site, and we are looking forward to watching it develop!

We are grateful to our partners for their continued support of this project: The Longleaf Alliance, Clemson University, Ducks Unlimited, The Hitchcock Woods Foundation, International Paper Company, Lowcountry Land Trust, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, USDA/NRCS, The Nature Conservancy, Nemours Wildlife Foundation, Private Landowner Cooperators, Savannah River Ecology Lab, SC Audubon Society, SC Department of Natural Resources, SC Forestry Commission, Upper Savannah River Land Trust, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service/Savannah River Forest Station.

## Texas Longleaf Implementation Team Update

By Kent Evans, Coordinator



Conservation leaders met and established the Texas Prescribed Fire Council. Photo by Kent Evans

On February 12, 2019, a cross-section of Texas conservation leaders including landowners, federal and state agencies, universities, NGOs, burn industry leaders, and researchers met in College Station to create the Texas Prescribed Burn Council. The council created a consensus mission statement that will advocate the use of prescribed burning in resource management and help to unify the community of burners across our vast landscape. Much work remains as the bylaws and goals are formed in the coming weeks. Many thanks to the meeting organizers including Texas AgriLife, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas A&M Forest Service, the Prescribed Burn Alliance of Texas, to facilitator, John Weir and the 50+ participants.

Our Texas Longleaf Team has offered technical guidance and financial assistance for longleaf restoration using grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Longleaf Stewardship Fund each year since 2013. With the support of our fiduciary, Texas A&M Forest Service, we were successful in

2018 winning another round of funding. The team also connects landowners to assistance by the NRCS and USFWS. Together we have helped establish over 4,000 acres of longleaf in the past five years.

Assisted by The Longleaf Alliance, we provide technical guidance on early plantation management including burning to control woody competition. Timing that first burn considers the young tree's root collar diameter, terminal bud exposure, soil moisture, and the burn prescription. I was fortunate to look at some plantations burned in January by Michael Sessions, a Texas Certified Prescribed Burn Manager (CIPBM). He had been burning 1 to 3-year-old stands where the ground cover of native grasses was adequate to carry a burn. This early age burning helps control unwanted invasive species.

## The Nature Conservancy Improves Longleaf Flatwoods Site in Louisiana

By Dan Weber, The Nature Conservancy



Federally endangered American chaffseed in flower. Photo by Will DeGravelles.

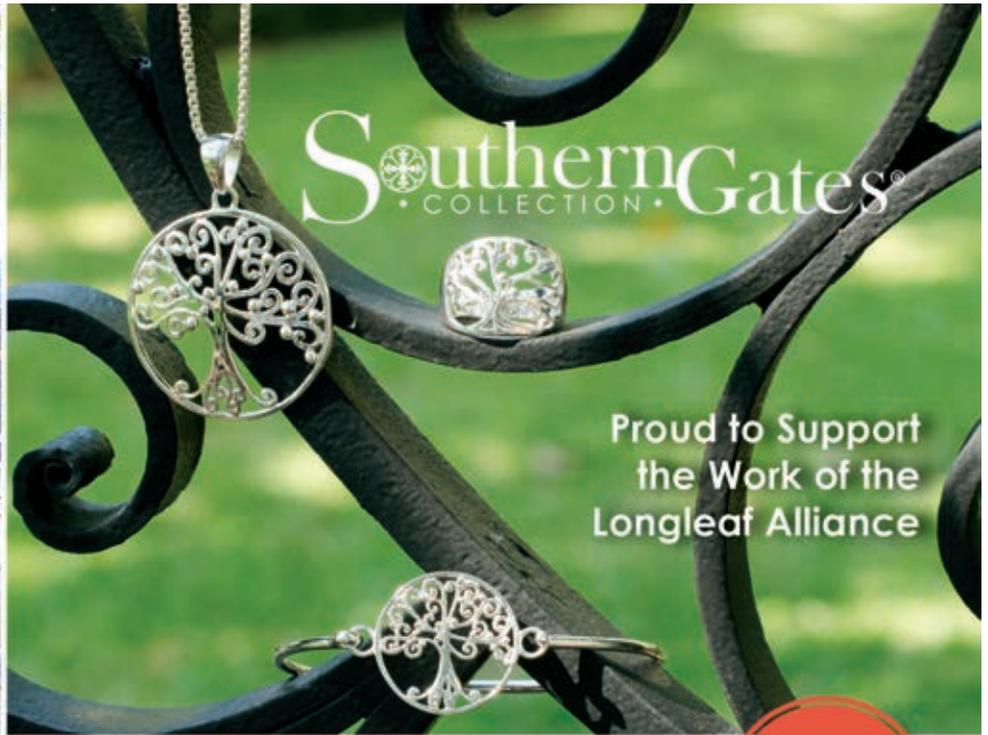


Location of the CC Road Savanna Preserve

In Louisiana, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has focused their longleaf efforts primarily on the protection and restoration of longleaf pine flatwood savannas. TNC's CC Road Savanna Preserve in southern Allen Parish - within the Fort Polk/Kisatchie SGA - protects nearly 600 acres of high-quality, fire-maintained longleaf flatwoods savanna. In South Louisiana, TNC helped popularize and refine the use of wetland mitigation banking in longleaf savannas leading to the protection of thousands of additional acres of critical wetland longleaf sites.

CC Road is the site of ongoing restoration and monitoring of one of the only two known populations of the federally endangered American chaffseed (*Schwalbea americana*) west of the Mississippi

River. Restoration logging to remove off-site pine species has opened up additional parts of the preserve to historic tree structure. Immediate plans call for herbicide application to prevent re-sprouting and capture of the site by off-site brush and hardwoods. This will facilitate the establishment of herbaceous species – grasses and forbs – which will allow for prescribed fire to be used more effectively. The site is burned on a 2-3-year rotation, further pushing the area toward its historically rich diversity of plants. The newly opened savanna structure is improving habitat for grassland birds, many of which are declining, including the American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) and Henslow's sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). CC Road is also one of an array of study sites where researchers from the University of Southern Mississippi are studying the habitat quality of various forested sites along and near the gulf coast for neotropical migrant birds in spring and fall.



SouthernGates®  
• COLLECTION •

Proud to Support  
the Work of the  
Longleaf Alliance

Inspired by historic wrought iron gates throughout the South, this fine collection of sterling silver jewelry celebrates special times both past and present.

Find a store near you at  
[www.southerngatesjewelry.com/pine](http://www.southerngatesjewelry.com/pine)



Corporate Gift  
Opportunities  
Available

© 2017 All rights reserved. Southern Gates® collection is a registered trademark of The Cargo Hold, Inc. Designed and distributed in Charleston, SC.

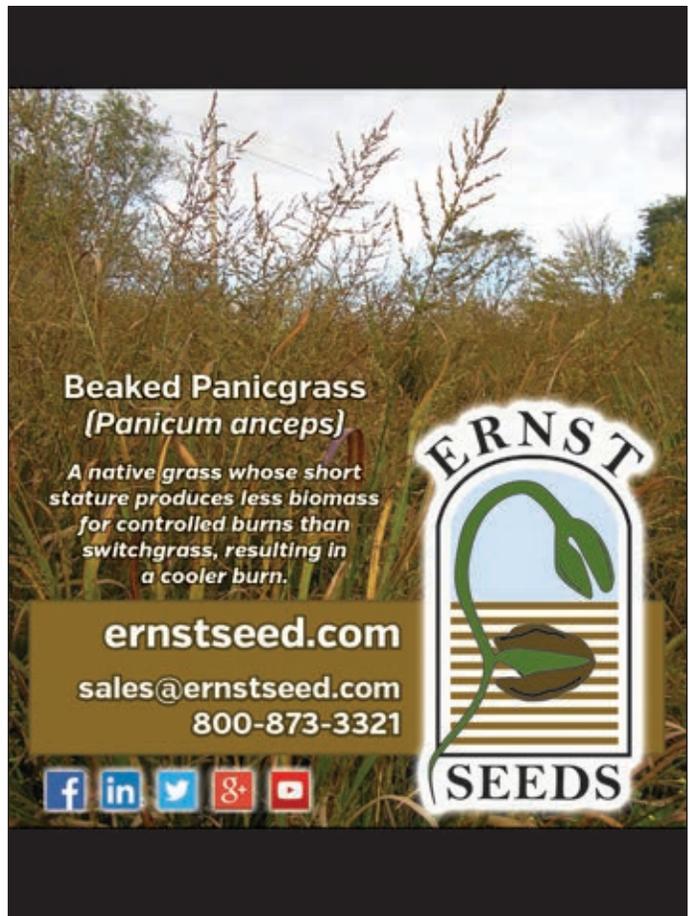


## Coastal Pine Straw

NATURES PERFECT MULCH

Michael H. Dugan

706.533.6072 | 2476 B McDowell Street  
tahoemd2622@yahoo.com | Augusta, Georgia 30904



### Beaked Panicgrass (*Panicum anceps*)

*A native grass whose short stature produces less biomass for controlled burns than switchgrass, resulting in a cooler burn.*

[ernstseed.com](http://ernstseed.com)

[sales@ernstseed.com](mailto:sales@ernstseed.com)

800-873-3321



# WHILE YOU'RE IN THE GRASS STAGE

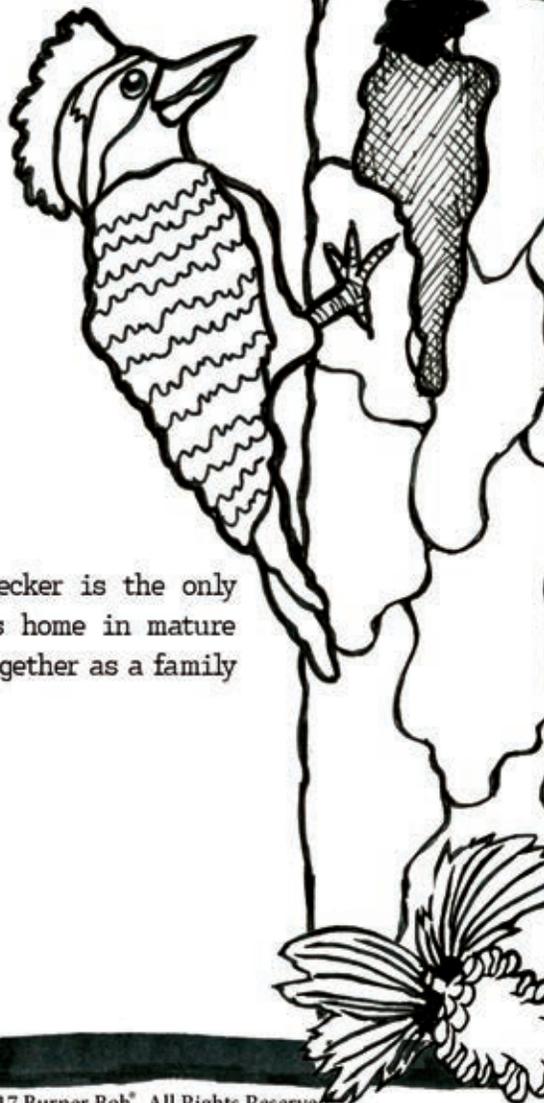
By Anne Rilling, *The Longleaf Alliance*

Bob helps Mr. Jordan Woods, the owner of the IDEAL forest, prescribe burn. Bob protects his neighbor, Alice, a red-cockaded woodpecker, by moving the flammable pine needle layer away from the base of the tree where her home is located.

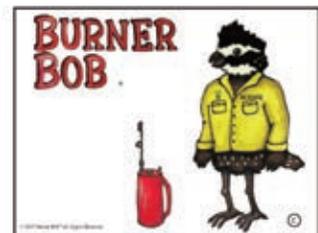
Alice is a small woodpecker about eight to nine inches in length and has wings that can reach fifteen inches across. She is mostly black and white and has a short pointy beak. Alice's husband has a red streak on his cheek called a 'cockade,' hence the name red-cockaded.

Alice and her family make their cavity home in a large longleaf pine tree. The sap that runs down the tree produces a sticky layer that protects their cavity from snakes and other animals that may want to live in it or cause harm. Alice and her family feed mainly on insects (such as ants, termites and bark beetles) that they find hiding under the bark of the longleaf pine tree. They like their neighborhood in the IDEAL forest because it is maintained by fire that keeps the branches wide open for sunshine and rain.

## RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER

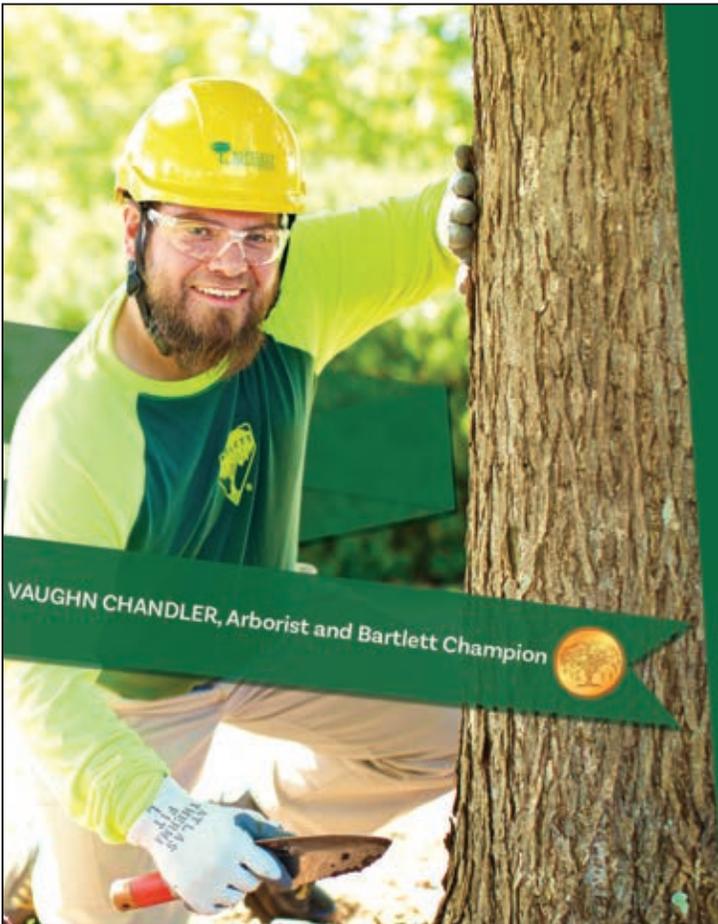


The red-cockaded woodpecker is the only woodpecker to make his home in mature pines. They also work together as a family to raise their young.



**Burner Bob is  
a Good  
Neighbor of the  
Red-Cockaded  
Woodpecker**

© 2017 Burner Bob® All Rights Reserved.



VAUGHN CHANDLER, Arborist and Bartlett Champion 

# Me? Obsessed with trees? Yes. Yes, I am.

Vaughn Chandler champions the trees, landscapes and property investments of the customers in his care. And he's one of the many reasons we've become the premier scientific tree and shrub care company in the world.

Contact us today at 877-BARTLETT | [bartlett.com](http://bartlett.com)



EVERY TREE NEEDS A CHAMPION.



## DAUNTLESS AIR

WE FLY TO WIN

formerly Aero Spray



Dauntless Air is an aerial firefighting company that exists to protect people, land and property. We fly to win the war against wildfires.

**320-297-9088 / [dauntlessair.com](http://dauntlessair.com)**

## LITERARY REVIEW

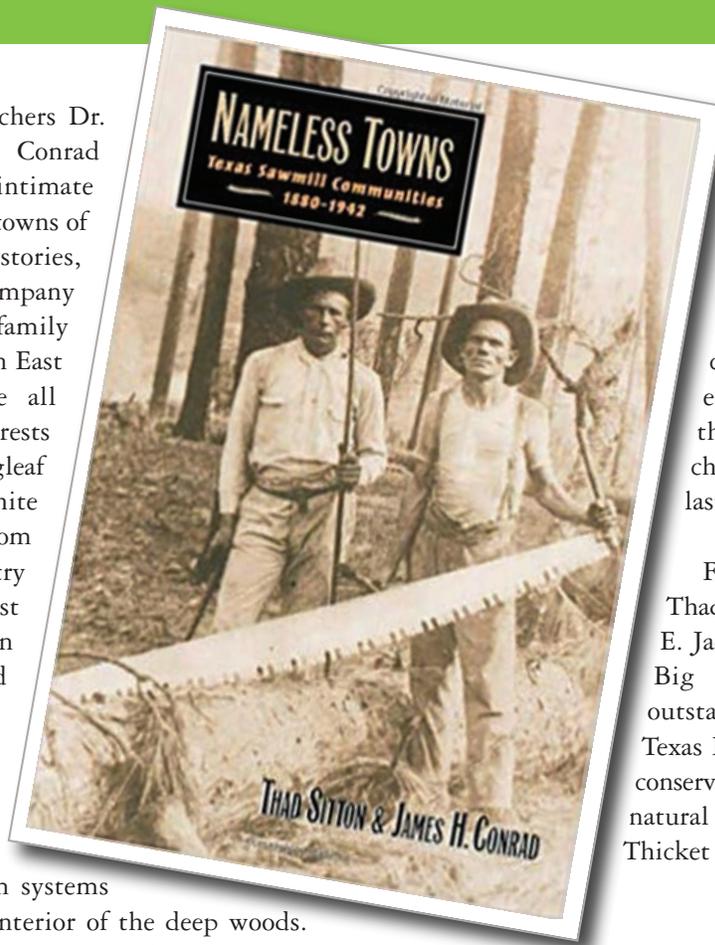
By Wendy Jo Ledbetter, *The Nature Conservancy*

# Nameless Towns — Texas Sawmill Communities 1880-1942

By Thad Sitton and James H. Conrad

Oral historians and researchers Dr. Thad Sitton and James H. Conrad provide an accurate and intimate portrait of life in the sawmill towns of East Texas. Using oral histories, historical research and company records from the Temple family legacy of the forest industry in East Texas, the authors describe all aspects of life in the virgin forests on the western edge of the longleaf pine range. Black and white historic photographs, many from the archives of the Texas Forestry Museum in Lufkin, the East Texas Research Center (Stephen F. Austin State University) and the Temple Archives of Diboll Texas, offer the reader a glimpse into the past.

As with many of the southern states, mill towns sprang up once rail and tram systems were able to reach into the interior of the deep woods. From the Trinity River eastward to the Sabine River on the Louisiana state line was 230,000 square miles of longleaf pine. White oak for barrel making and bald cypress from the river bottoms was harvested as well as other pine and hardwoods. The “cut out and get out” life of hundreds of mill towns was a familiar story in the Texas Pineywoods counties.



“Local peoples had ordered their daily lives to the casual rhythms of the seasons and the sun and had worked from ‘can see to can’t,’ but now mill whistles blew in reveille in the dark and regulated lives by the clock.” This book is an entertaining and insightful view of the lives of the men, women, and children that lived in the time of the last virgin longleaf forests in Texas.

Footnote: In October 2018 Dr. Thad Sitton was presented with the R. E. Jackson Conservation Award by the Big Thicket Association for his outstanding record for recording East Texas History. The BTA is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the natural and cultural resources of the Big Thicket region.

*Nameless Towns*

By Thad Sitton and James H. Conrad

Austin: University of Texas Press, 1998. 248pp.

# LONGLEAF ART SPOTLIGHT

## PHOTOGRAPHER TODD AMACKER



### Artist's Vision

---

I had a vision before I ever captured this image of a trio of white-topped pitcher plants (*Sarracenia leucophylla*) in a seepage bog in Baldwin County, Alabama. As Southern naturalists we are used to ambling along in our favorite longleaf habitat type looking down in search of plants, amphibians, reptiles, lichen, insects, or any of the other (often overlooked) varieties of smaller wildlife that depend on longleaf pine ecosystems.

But I wanted to capture a different perspective; what would this habitat look like to a frog or a grasshopper perched on a

nearby pitcher plant, looking up at one of the world's most beautiful flowering plants? Folks have said that in pre-settlement times you could have walked for 500 miles (from present day New Orleans to Tallahassee) without ever leaving such a pitcher plant bog. These carnivorous plants thrive in nutrient poor soils and make up for it by eating a variety of insects, frogs, and lizards.

Learn more at [www.toddamacker.com](http://www.toddamacker.com)



## The Future in Longleaf Propagation

Bareroot Quality Roots  
Containerized Efficiency

Super Long-Life 6" deep container designed specifically for Longleaf

- Mechanizable to save big on labor bills
- Numerous, vigorous air-pruned roots
- Intact root system at shipping
- Easy to pull cell design & no root circling



proptek.com (800) 487 1381

www.quailforever.org facebook.com/quailforever

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GROWTH OF QUAIL FOREVER IN THE SOUTHEAST.**

IN THE PAST YEAR, WE'VE ADDED 10 CHAPTERS AND 15 PRIVATE LANDS BIOLOGISTS TO ASSIST WITH HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SOUTHEAST.

Contact Tim Caughran, Director of Field Operations  
tcaughran@quailforever.org, to help make a difference.

## Gifting the Longleaf Pine

Retirement, Speaker Gifts, Merit Awards.  
For Any Lover of the Longleaf Pine.



Add Your Business Logo, or Forest Service Shield

Melanie Walter, Artist  
pgb@pinegardenbaskets.com  
www.pinegardenbaskets.com  
910-799-8363

# Whitfield Farms & Nursery

SINCE 1996

2561 Lambs Bridge Rd  
Twin City, GA 30471

bwhitfield@pineland.net

(912) 515-4103

## The Deepest Container on the Market!

Introducing our new 6.5" deep, lower density container for longleaf seedling production. Each cell holds 8.2 cu.in. (134 ml) of soil to help develop a larger root system for a superior stand of trees. The longer plug and greater soil capacity should result in a seedling with a higher survival rate than those with shorter plugs.



GROWER OF CONTAINERIZED LONGLEAF PINE SEEDLINGS

[WhitfieldPineSeedlings.com](http://WhitfieldPineSeedlings.com)



Roundstone Native Seed LLC is proud to be a part of The Longleaf Alliance. It is our passion, our drive, and our mission to make a positive difference in the natural landscape by working alongside longleaf conservationists and enthusiasts. We are grateful that the seeds we gather and produce grow into appropriate longleaf ecosystem understory.



Call or Email Today

9764 Raider Hollow Road • Upton, Kentucky

[sales@roundstoneseed.com](mailto:sales@roundstoneseed.com) • (270)-531-3034 • [www.roundstoneseed.com](http://www.roundstoneseed.com)

# Longleaf Destinations

*By George Chastain, Executive Director, Hobcaw Barony, The Belle W. Baruch Foundation*

## Hobcaw Barony in Georgetown, South Carolina

*Hobcaw Barony contains some 2,000 acres of mature longleaf pine forest, some nearing 200 years old. These mature forests are managed using prescribed fire to provide the open habitat preferred by the endangered Red Cockaded Woodpecker. Photo by Belle W. Baruch Foundation.*



*Hobcaw Barony is continuing to expand its longleaf acreage by converting existing mixed stands. Here a mature loblolly pine stand is underplanted with longleaf seedlings. Under planting allows the establishment of longleaf in new areas on the property while maintaining a mature overstory for Red Cockaded Woodpecker foraging habitat. Photo by Belle W. Baruch Foundation.*

As a Waccamaw Indian tribe member made his way under the canopy of old growth pines, he raised his bow and aimed his arrow as a white-tailed deer stood in a ray of sun amid the tall grass.

“Hobcaw,” the land “between the waters,” was valuable to Native Americans for hunting and habitation, but in 1718, King George II granted Hobcaw Barony to a South Carolina Lord Proprietor. Today, the 16,000-acre tract celebrates its history and its use as a site for research in the natural sciences and the humanities by South Carolina’s colleges and universities, though remaining privately owned and operated by The Belle W. Baruch Foundation.

Hobcaw Barony was divided into individually named plantations, exporting naval stores, indigo, and rice by the Revolutionary War and by 1850, contributing to Georgetown County’s record rice production.

South Carolina’s large-scale rice cultivation ended by 1911 due to labor costs, competition, and a series of devastating hurricanes. Timber provided income as companies like the giant Atlantic Coast Lumber Company milled and shipped lumber products north between the late 19th century and the 1930s. Wildlife was exploited by landowners who hosted, leased, or sold to northern duck hunters. South Carolina native and New York millionaire Bernard Baruch acquired Hobcaw in 1905 and entertained many influential people, including Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt. His oldest child, Belle, purchased the land and began conservation efforts during her lifetime. At her death in 1964, Belle Baruch created a foundation and made the land available for research and education.

Conservation is central to Belle Baruch’s intentions for Hobcaw Barony. Much like we manage our historic sites to represent a variety of time periods for research and education, our natural resources are managed to provide a variety of

habitats where students and faculty can study and learn.

Our natural systems at Hobcaw Barony are diverse and healthy; however, they are very different from the ecosystems Europeans found when they arrived on the continent. Europeans would have found upland forest dominated by large longleaf pines and fire climax vegetation maintained by periodic fire on the landscape. Bottomland forest, where fire could not reach except during extreme droughts, would have contained great cypress and tupelo trees. Maritime forest would have dominated the sea islands, protecting the marshes, mud flats, and oyster reefs of nearby North Inlet.

These forests were harvested with thousands of acres converted for crops, plantation homes, taverns, fortifications, superintendent’s homes, slave villages, and cemeteries. Much of the forest was removed, and by the early twentieth century, only fragments of the first or virgin forest remained on Hobcaw, as was the case throughout the south.

Over time as home sites were abandoned and fields became fallow, the uplands at Hobcaw Barony reverted to forest. These second forests healed the land and provided habitat for many species. Second forests largely regenerated naturally after significant disturbance and display major differences in species composition with respect to virgin forests. On Hobcaw Barony their composition lacks many of the species we find compelling, including the once towering longleaf pines.

To help restore this species, new longleaf pine stands are being established on Hobcaw Barony as part of our forest management program. These third forests have added over 100 acres to the longleaf present on Hobcaw Barony, the first significant expansion of longleaf forest on the property since the colonial period. Hobcaw Barony now boasts over 2,000 acres of longleaf pine forest, with some remnant stands approaching 200 years old.

Nearby sites involved in similar research and education



*Hobcaw Barony host the Wood Magic Forest Fair on alternating years in cooperation with the Forestry Association of South Carolina, the SC Forestry Commission, and South Carolina's forest industry. The fair teaches hundreds of fifth graders the importance of forest management and conservation each year. Here students learn about Good Fire/Bad Fire with a forester as he receives a prescription for prescribed fire from our "doctor." Photo by Michelle Johnson, SC Forestry Commission.*

*Hobcaw Barony is recognized as an important conservation property, being named a Stewardship Forest by the South Carolina Forestry Commission and an Important Bird Area by Audubon. The property is also certified as a Tree Farm. Here members of the Belle W. Baruch Foundation Board of Trustees gather with representatives of the Commission for a presentation on the tupelo swamp boardwalk. Photo by Michelle Johnson, SC Forestry Commission. ▼*



▲ *Hobcaw House was built in 1930 by Bernard M. Baruch to serve as his winter home. The house replaced a structure from the late 1800's lost to fire during the 1929 season. Bernard Baruch entertained many notable guests at Hobcaw House, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt during his month long stay in April 1944. Photo by Belle W. Baruch Foundation.*

include the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center, located just south of Georgetown and the Santee Coastal Reserve, north of McClellanville, both operated by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).

The Tom Yawkey Center was created in 1976 at the death of the millionaire, hunter, and Boston Red Sox owner. Given to the state, the 24,000-acre retreat is now managed by SCDNR and is dedicated to wildlife research, restoration of the environment for the benefit of native species, and guided public programming. Access is provided by reservations for free bus tours, birding programs, hikes, photography, and painting. Consider a visit by calling 843.546.6814 or emailing WhamP@dnr.sc.gov.

The Santee Coastal Reserve is a 24,000-acre former gun club that The Nature Conservancy purchased and gave to the state in 1974. The SCDNR Wildlife Management Area offers free

self-guided access during daylight hours and includes biking, birding, hiking, and fishing. Various marked trails include a swamp boardwalk, old rice fields, pine woodlands, saltmarsh, and an Eldorado Plantation trail. Questions and day passes may be obtained by calling 843.546.8665 or emailing lynchg@dnr.sc.gov .

The foundation offers public access to Hobcaw Barony through guided tours, programs and school field studies throughout the year at a nominal cost. Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center is a small museum open Monday-Saturday offering displays about history, ecology, research and management of the property.

For more information on Hobcaw Barony and The Belle W. Baruch Foundation, call the Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center at 843.546.4623 or visit [bobcawbarony.org](http://bobcawbarony.org) for online registration and more information.



Enviva is a leading supplier of industrial wood pellets, a form of renewable fuel that is:

- A renewable alternative to fossil fuels
- Sustainably-sourced
- Beneficial to U.S. forests
- Low in carbon and other pollutants
- Efficient and easy to transport
- Scalable and reliable



**ArborGen**  
The Reforestation Advantage

is proud to be a Corporate Conservation Partner with the Longleaf Alliance



Our sponsorship allows the Alliance to host academies, workshops and conferences across the range. We're pleased to provide both improved and unimproved containerized Longleaf for restoration.

[ArborGen.com](http://ArborGen.com)

855.894.1702

THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION



“Working hand in hand with our agency partners, we collectively restored the wild turkey across much of North America. Now we must work together to Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.”

— Becky Humphries,  
NWTF Chief Executive Officer



**OUR GOAL  
SAVE THE HABITAT:**

We will conserve or enhance 4 million acres of critical wildlife habitat.

We are working to restore and manage longleaf pine ecosystems throughout their historic range.



**SAVE THE HUNT:**

We will recruit 1.5 million hunters and establish 500,000 acres of new hunting access.



NWTF.org



# FORESTATE GROWERS LLC



Jacob Moore, Forester & Owner  
1535 Harvey Vickers Road ♦ PO Box 2198 ♦ Douglas, GA 31534-2198  
912-592-0542 ♦ jacob@forestatellc.com ♦ www.forestategrowers.com

## Forestry's impact in Louisiana

- 58,530 jobs in forestry & related industries
- 14 million acres — 50% of land area — of forest land
- 73 million seedlings planted each year
- \$12 billion of economic impact



SUSTAINABLE  
FORESTRY  
INITIATIVE

*70 years of minding  
the forest for our future*



# MILLIKEN FORESTRY

Managing Assets Since 1949

213 N. Grampian Hills Road  
Columbia, SC 29223  
803.788-0590  
millikenforestry.com



Creating working forests  
that produce both natural benefits  
and landowner satisfaction

TIMBER SALES ■ APPRAISALS ■ FOREST CERTIFICATION ■ HABITAT RESTORATION ■ EXPERT MAPPING ■ FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

## INVESTING IN CONSERVATION

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) stands for future forests. We recognize that improving forest habitat requires an investment in research and the collaboration of many partners.

Since 2010, SFI has awarded more than \$3.9 million in conservation and community partnership grants to organizations and projects that promote wildlife habitat, water quality, and biodiversity conservation.

Look and ask for the SFI label on any wood, paper and packaging product you purchase. By supporting SFI, you're supporting biodiversity and conservation through responsible forestry.

Learn more at [sfiprogram.org](http://sfiprogram.org).



# FORESTS ARE THE ANSWER



By Lynnsey Basala, *The Longleaf Alliance*

# Nursery Conservation Partnerships Inch Us Closer To Our Vision

As the planting season concludes and we look forward to another great year, I would like to take this opportunity to commend our Nursery Conservation Partners for their ongoing commitment to The Longleaf Alliance. Nurseries such as ArborGen, Bodenhamer Farms and Nursery, Blanton's Longleaf Container Nursery, Forestate Growers, Meeks' Farms & Nursery, PRT USA, International Forest Company, and Whitfield Farms & Nursery have provided some of our largest contributions over the years, and we are humbled by their level of support and advocacy for the longleaf pine ecosystem. Your support helps power our progress towards the vision of eight million acres of longleaf by 2025. Nursery Conservation Partnership support is an irreplaceable portion of our budget and of significant importance to the overall goal to restore

longleaf forests across the range.

For more than a decade, The Longleaf Alliance has worked closely with nursery managers to track seedling sales and availability across the range, as well as expand upon the evolving contractor list. Together, we continue to increase participation, improve methods and the level of customer service for our biggest supporters. Thank you to the wonderful nursery managers for helping us maintain a strong line of communication with our partners and for providing updates for the contractor list located on The Longleaf Alliance's website. If you wish to provide updates or learn more about the role of nurseries as part of our Nursery Conservation Partnership Program contact Development Director, Lynnsey Basala, at [lynnsey@longleafalliance.org](mailto:lynnsey@longleafalliance.org) or (314) 288-5654.

THE  
CONSERVATION FUND

We make conservation work for America.

[conservationfund.org](http://conservationfund.org)

Since 1985, we have protected nearly 8 million acres of America's land while developing innovative solutions to combat tough environmental challenges.

We pioneered our Working Forest Fund program to quickly acquire threatened forests with high conservation value. We own, restore and sustainably manage these lands as working forests until they are permanently protected under conservation easements.

Get to know us!





# **NOT ALL SEEDLINGS ARE CREATED EQUAL.**



VISIT US ONLINE

**[INTERNATIONALFOREST.CO/LONGLEAF](https://INTERNATIONALFOREST.CO/LONGLEAF)**

# APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN BREWERY



FOR EVERY CASE OF LONG LEAF IPA  
SOLD, APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN  
BREWERY WILL PLANT A LONGLEAF PINE

PROUD PARTNER OF

THE LONGLEAF ALLIANCE



WE CAN SO YOU CAN  
FOUNDATION



AMB PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE WE CAN SO YOU CAN FOUNDATION'S  
MISSION TO REVITALIZE OUR COMMUNITIES, MOUNTAINS & RIVERS.



# Advantage

Forestry Container Pines

## Your Source for Containerized Pine Seedlings

### Our product list of Advanced Generation pines includes

- Loblolly
  - Coastal
  - Piedmont
- Slash
- Shortleaf
- Longleaf
  - Coastal
  - Piedmont

### Service and Quality is our number one objective

All of our seedlings are grown in Tifton, GA at LTF Greenhouses

- Located just 5 miles from I-75 and 1 mile from Hwy 82 for easy access
- Large labor force to accommodate short notice needs
- On site cold storage
- Local pick up or delivery to your location
- Custom grown orders upon your request

To place an order or inquire about pricing,  
please call 334-341-2059 or visit us at [containerpines.com](http://containerpines.com)

**Advantage Forestry Container Pines**  
**408 N. Commissioners Ave.**  
**Demopolis , AL 36732**



Carol Denhof and Anne Rilling with Burner Bob at the inaugural Flatwoods Fire & Nature Festival in Gainesville, GA.

Photo courtesy of LLA



# Blanton's

LONGLEAF CONTAINER NURSERY  
MADISON • FLORIDA  
850-973-2967 PH & FAX  
blantonsnursery@earthlink.net

SINCE 2001, THE LARGEST PRIVATELY OWNED PRODUCER OF CONTAINERIZED PINE SEEDLINGS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

**GROWERS OF 6" PREMIER CONTAINERIZED PINE SEEDLINGS**  
Improved & Natural Stand Longleaf  
Advanced Generation Slash & Loblolly




LOCATED IN NORTH FLORIDA ONLY MINUTES FROM VALDOSTA, GA & I-75

C. J. (JAY) BLANTON III 850-566-1884	JASON M. BLANTON 850-566-7175	C. J. BLANTON, JR. 850-673-7424
---	----------------------------------	------------------------------------

*By Shan Cammack, Georgia Department of Natural Resources*

# HEARTPINE

## TRAJECTORY OF A FIRE PIXIE

A painting of a forest fire. The foreground is filled with bright orange and yellow flames and smoke. In the background, tall, thin trees stand against a hazy, blue-tinted sky. A small figure of a person is visible in the distance on the right side of the painting.

The best that I can do is to  
help the Earth in my small way  
— one burned acre at a time.

Growing up on a small farm in rural Kentucky instilled in me a strong work ethic, a curiosity about the natural world, and a competitive spirit for physical challenge. This amalgamation of traits, along with my high energy and passion, has led me to a career in fire.

Fresh out of college, armed with idealistic ideas and an English degree, I was . . . well, I was pretty lost. Fortunately, I landed an internship with The Nature Conservancy that stretched into a couple of years. My conservation ethic exploded as I learned about the rare plants and habitats across my home state. We were setting up a prescribed burning program and doing baseline surveys ahead of the fire. I was so excited. That's when my boss and mentor kicked me out, insisting that I needed a graduate degree to pursue a career in ecology. I never got to strike a match in Kentucky. I reluctantly left.

It was TNC to the rescue again, this time in Georgia. Between my research trips to the jungles of Puerto Rico, I volunteered for them across the state. I still enjoy visiting that little patch of longleaf pine I planted on the trail to the falls at Broxton Rocks Preserve. They are tall and gangly, but happy

and healthy. There's something about leaving a positive mark on the world.

Fire can leave a mark too as it is such a powerful tool for transformation. I was originally attracted to prescribed burning by the challenges it offered. The physicality, the potential danger, the ecological enigmas, the toys. Early in my career, I was entrusted with \$100,000, and I eagerly set out to build an ecoburning empire with the purchase of my two trusty steeds, Ember (the green fire truck) and Sparky (the crazy ATV with a flamethrower). It's funny to hear a grown man on the radio ask in all seriousness, "Can Sparky drop off a drip torch at point A?"

I have worked with Ember and Sparky for two decades as a fire ecologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. I have seen some profound changes in our agency. DNR has embraced nationally recognized fire training protocols and, with the weight of the State Wildlife Action Plan behind it, placed a strong emphasis on prescribed burning. We have literally doubled our acres burned in the last decade.

I'm very proud of that and the small part I have played. My career has transitioned from running the day-to-day operations

## *Heading Fire - Philip Juras*

Painting fire on the landscape: fire is your paint, a drip torch your paintbrush, and the forest is your canvas.

## *The Duality of Time - Matthew Zbornik*

Is time measured by the rings of an old longleaf or by man's perception of its passage?



of a seasonal fire crew to writing grants, working with partners to proliferate pyricity, and training new wildland firefighters. That initial \$100,000 didn't go very far. It's a good thing I have an English degree to help garner new grants.

I spend a lot of time training staff, coordinating our seasonal crews, and educating the public. One of my favorite parts of my job is mentoring young fire leaders; giving them a solid foundation then testing their comfort zone. It's so exciting to watch them learn the basics, slowly grasp the bigger picture, and begin to master the techniques. I love watching our returning seasonal fire crews pass the torch as they mentor newcomers to fire.

I have also enjoyed getting people "fired up" on the subject. While I am a scientist at heart, I strive to infuse art and culture in that endeavor. Remember that Georgia Prescribed Fire Council meeting that featured celebrated writers and artists? Or that Longleaf Alliance Conference that hosted an art event with fine artists of various mediums? I believe interpreting fire and longleaf through the lens of art can reach people on a deeper level.

I enjoy weaving ecoburning concepts into training and presentations and getting people to think about fire in unconventional ways. Things like exploring the challenges and benefits of burning wetlands, or tying ignition strategies to management objectives, or reflecting on fire management in a changing climate. What are the implications for a prescribed fire manager in light of the 2016 wildfires of eastern Tennessee/north Georgia or the ravages of Hurricane Michael?

It's devastating to see the razed forest by Michael at Seminole State Park. My fifteen years of careful fire management seems laid to waste in one storm event. On closer examination, however, I realize that it's not the end. The forest will endure, even prevail. Thanks to the many years of fire by my hand and by those before me, the native groundcover is in excellent shape. All we need is trees. And I know how to plant a longleaf pine.

This destruction caused by the hurricane along with my 50th birthday makes me realize that my influence on the Earth is ephemeral. The best that I can do is to help the Earth in my small way—one burned acre at a time. I can also build a fire legacy--by passing the torch--teaching and inspiring future generations to continue that work.

