



THE LONGLEAF LEADER

DIVERSITY

PINE SEEDLINGS with NUTRA GUARD

available exclusively from



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

NUTRA GUARD plugs are loaded with 12 essential elements

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

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 Pine Seedlings from Meeks' Farms and Nursery, Inc.



MEEKS'

FARMS & 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
Management Checklist	4
Letters from the Inbox	5
Understory Plant Spotlight.....	7
Window into Wildlife	8
Wetland Restoration.....	10
2020 - A Year of Progress Amidst Challenges	14
LANDOWNER CORNER	18
TECHNOLOGY CORNER	22

REGIONAL UPDATES	27
NEXT GENERATION	38
ARTS & LITERATURE	42
Longleaf Destinations	46
PEOPLE	52
SUPPORT THE ALLIANCE	54
Heartpine	60

PUBLISHER The Longleaf Alliance, **EDITOR** Sarah Crate, **ASSISTANT EDITOR** Margaret Platt, **DESIGN** Bellhouse Publishing
ADVERTISING Sarah Crate – sarah@longleafalliance.org

COVER The extraordinary diversity in longleaf ecosystems comes from the abundant plant life found in the understory. This species richness plot at the Green Swamp Preserve in North Carolina illustrates the high groundcover diversity in wet savanna habitats. Each red pin flag marks the location of a new plant species. Monitoring is an important tool for measuring restoration success. Photo by Sarah Crate.

The Longleaf Leader (USPS#) is an official publication of The Longleaf Alliance, 12130 Dixon Center Road, Andalusia, Alabama 36420 and is published quarterly. 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 The Longleaf Alliance, 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.

The Longleaf Alliance

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CAROL DENHOF

On behalf of the entire Longleaf Alliance Team, I want to say thanks to each and every one of you who were able to attend our first-ever Virtual Longleaf Conference this past October. It was indeed a different kind of conference for us, and we missed seeing you all in person. Still, I came away with a sense of excitement and motivation because of the active participation from all of you throughout the week. This is what it is all about – sharing lessons learned and sparking new ideas about how to maximize your own piece of longleaf or advance restoration on lands that you manage.

I also want to express a sincere thank you to all of our generous sponsors for providing support for the conference. The funding you all provided helped make this an exceptional event. Even in this virtual year, your dedication to the overall longleaf effort, and this conference, was steadfast.

Thanks also to Cindy Delaney and her team at Delaney Meetings & Event Management as well as the folks at CadmiumCD for keeping us organized and on track as we navigated the unknowns of putting together a virtual event. We couldn't have done it without you!

And last, but certainly not least, a huge kudos to The Longleaf Alliance Team, led by Sarah Crate, for all the collective work that went into creating a valuable experience for everyone involved in the conference. When we decided to go virtual back in the summer, there was quite a bit of apprehension. But The Alliance Team quickly pivoted to the new format, and I'm incredibly proud of their hard work that made it a great event.

I was impressed by the many presentations, panels, and posters that were featured. We are lucky to have such smart

and innovative people working within the longleaf community. The Alliance appreciates you all sharing your insightful work with the conference attendees and us. I learned a great deal, and since all the content will be available on the platform for a full year, I'll certainly be returning to review at my leisure.

The Lunch & Learns gave us opportunities to learn about focused topics and to network with others with shared interests and experiences. And likewise, the socials provided a fun and casual way to see our friends and connect with new ones.

And I love the way we included elements that have us look outside the traditional technical box of longleaf and ponder why we are, to quote Rhett Johnson, "romanced by the very idea of it." Thanks to Abigail Dowd for serenading us with her music and stories inspired by the longleaf forest. Hearing her talk about her connection to longleaf and how that shapes her music was moving.

All these different elements and all the diverse folks contributing in their own way to the conference made it a success. As Jenny Sanders writes in the Texas LIT article, "DIVERSITY isn't just a critical concept for ecosystems – it's also a key ingredient for effective teams." I hope you feel as motivated as we do to push forward with our collaborative work to advance longleaf restoration, each of us making a stronger and healthier future for longleaf in our corners of the world.

Again, I want to thank everyone — speakers, exhibitors, and attendees all — for taking the leap with us into the virtual conference unknown together. 2020 certainly dealt us all some challenges, but we are so thankful that we could still come together and focus on Longleaf – The Resilient Landscape.

The Longleaf Alliance Board of Directors

Reese Thompson –
Chairman
Amanda Haralson –
Vice Chairman
Rufus Duncan –
Secretary/Treasurer
Marc Walley –
Past Chairman
Lynda Guerry Beam
Robbie Fisher
Patrick Franklin
Angus Lafaye
Ken Nichols
Bill Owen
Mickey Parker
Josh Raglin
Mac Rhodes
Salem Saloom
Latimore Smith
George Tyson
Phillip Woods

Carol Denhof
President
carol@longleafalliance.org

Lynnsey Basala
Vice President for Development
lynnsey@longleafalliance.org

Ad Platt
Vice President for Operations
ad@longleafalliance.org

Anne Rilling
Vice President for Business
anne@longleafalliance.org

Ryan Bollinger
Regional Initiatives Director & LIT Consul
ryan_b@longleafalliance.org

Vernon Compton
GCPEP Director
vernon@longleafalliance.org

Lisa Lord
Conservation Programs Director
lisa@longleafalliance.org

Charlie Abeles
Wildlife Biologist
charlie@longleafalliance.org

Jacob Barrett
Technical Assistance & Training Specialist
jacob@longleafalliance.org

Nicole Barys
Wetland Resource Crew Lead
nicole@longleafalliance.org

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

Sarah Crate
Outreach Communications Coordinator
sarah@longleafalliance.org

Lucas Furman
GIS Support Specialist
lucas@longleafalliance.org

Kay Nail
Accounting Specialist
kay@longleafalliance.org

Edward O'Daniels
Restoration Project Manager
edward@longleafalliance.org

Alan Patterson
Wetland Resource Technician
alan@longleafalliance.org

Laura Roncal
Wetland Resource Technician
laura@longleafalliance.org

Jessica Sandoval
Wildlife Technician
jessica@longleafalliance.org

STAFF

Brian Schumann
Natural Resource Technician II
brian@longleafalliance.org

Elizabeth Shadle
Wildlife Technician
elizabeth@longleafalliance.org

Kaiden Spurlock
Natural Resource Supervisor
kaiden@longleafalliance.org

Randy Tate
Fort Stewart/Altamaha Partnership Coordinator
randy@longleafalliance.org

Ben Tuttle
Natural Resource Technician I
benjamin@longleafalliance.org

Donna Vassallo
Natural Resource Technician II
donna@longleafalliance.org

Connor Wagner
Wetland Resource Technician
connor@longleafalliance.org

Casey White
Administrative Assistant
office@longleafalliance.org

Bob Wilken
Fire Specialist
bob@longleafalliance.org

PRONONE® **POWER PELLET** HERBICIDE

"As a Longleaf tree farmer, I have been very pleased with the results from using PRONONE Power Pellets for the past ten years.

It has provided effective control of undesirable hardwoods and bushes.

I also like the selective targeted approach of pellets versus sprays or hack and squirt.

I feel safer using solid pellets instead of liquid chemicals."



Reese Jordan Thompson
Vidalia, Georgia

PRONONE® Power Pellets are available at your local ag retailer or visit us on our website at www.pro-serveinc.com

PRONONE® Power Pellet is a registered trademark of Pro-Serve, Inc. Memphis TN



MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

WINTER 2021

- **Site-Prep Burns:** Sometimes, it is important to conduct a site prep burn prior to planting longleaf. Site prep burns can remove logging slash, lead to better planting jobs, stimulate early growth by increasing available nutrients, and decrease hot spots that may kill young seedlings in subsequent burns. On deep sands or sites with little logging slash, site-prep burns may not be needed; fuel can be saved until the first or second-year burn.
- **Planting Longleaf:** To take advantage of the winter precipitation and maximize survival, early planting is almost always better than late planting. With containerized seedlings, proper planting depth is the most critical factor for success.
- **Prescribed Fire:** Late December through the end of winter is an excellent time to introduce fire in young, healthy longleaf stands to help control unwanted pine seedlings and other competition. Winter is also a prime time to conduct fuel reduction burns in mature or sapling stands but use caution (or wait) when burning in drought-stressed stands. If reintroducing fire into a long-unburned stand, remember to monitor duff moisture levels before burning and plan to do immediate mop-up.
- **Evaluate Young Stands:** Evaluate young stands to determine one-year survival and ensure adequate stocking. Wait until after the first frost when the grass stage longleaf is more easily seen.
- **Prune Longleaf:** In some stands that lack fuels or have a low stocking rate, mechanical pruning may be an option to avoid the “Old Field” growth form. Winter is the easiest time to prune and should be finished before the spring green-up. Pruning may not be practical in a large stand.
- **Plant Native Warm-Season Grasses:** Later winter through early spring is the recommended time to plant our native understory species. Some plants require a cold-stratification period and need to be planted earlier.
- **Herbicide Treatments:** Basal bark and stem injection herbicide treatments are typically most effective at controlling unwanted or invasive trees and shrubs during the dormant season.
- **Walk the “Line”:** Now is an excellent time to inspect your property lines and freshen up boundary line markings. Take advantage of the cooler weather and greater visibility in the winter woods.
- **Install Nest Boxes:** If you want more natural pest control agents like kestrels and owls on your property, install boxes early, as these are among the species that begin nesting in winter.
- **Timber Thinning:** Take advantage of dry conditions and thin when the bark is less prone to slipping to minimize equipment damage to your stand. Thinnings later in the year may knock off patches of bark when the sap is rising, leading to stress, beetles, loss, etc.
- **Mechanical Brush Management:** May be easier in this season when aiming to reduce heavy shrub layers. Allow time to dry down the slash and follow up later with a growing season burn.

Reach out to The Longleaf Alliance with any questions you may have pertaining to establishing and managing longleaf stands at longleafalliance.org/contact-us

Q&A

Q.

Dear Longleaf Alliance,

I have 68 acres of 19-year-old longleaf pine in Aiken County, South Carolina. My family and I got a couple of good burns in early on, but now it's been about five years since the last fire. What can I say—life gets in the way! Now brushy vegetation, and volunteer loblolly, has grown in with a force. The stand is kind of a mess. We are proud to burn our own land but don't quite know how to approach it again. We love our woods and want to enjoy them again. What can we do now?

Feeling lost in the woods, Windsor, SC

A.

Dear Lost in the Woods

Your woods are not lost, and neither are you! Your situation is a common one that landowners (and land managers alike) find themselves in when circumstances get in the way of their management priorities. With some planning, you and your family can be quite successful with getting back to burning your woods.

Since you noted the buildup of fuels in your stand, we'd suggest easing back into it with a dormant-season burn, when the temperatures are cool to cold, and winds and dispersion levels are typically more conducive to prescribed fire, and often more dependable. That is not to say that you can't successfully pull off a burn in the spring and summer. But we'd rather see you take advantage of a good burn day in January than hold out for one that may not come later in the year.

Dust off your burn plan and think about the specific objectives you want to achieve, both immediately and longer-term. You'll want to review your weather parameters that should be met on burn day. Relative humidities in the winter are often low, especially following fronts, so you'll want to look for a day with predicted ranges from 25-40% while anticipating a dip into lower values is always possible. Look for a day with a steady wind from a reliable direction. And if you can, time it for after the first frost; that will provide you with frost-cured grasses to carry the fire at the ground level.

Since your longleaf are older and have developed their thick, insulating bark, feel free to use backing fires in addition to strip-head fires at your own pace to move fire across the unit.

Make sure to take stock of your burn equipment and gear—does anything need service or replacement? Maybe there is a fellow landowner with items you can borrow. Even better, are there folks who can help you and your family on the burn? And don't forget to keep your local Forestry Commission in the loop.

Happy planning! And keep us posted!
The Longleaf Alliance

Q.

Dear Longleaf Alliance,

I'm planning on restoring fire to a longleaf pine stand on my property that hasn't been burned in 24 years. I've been told that I need to be careful about reintroducing fire because I could burn the stand too hot and kill the tree's roots. Why can't I just rake around the trees like they do around red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) nest trees? Can you give me some guidance?

Talbot County, Georgia Tree Farmer

A.

Dear Talbot County,

The advice you have been given is correct. You have to be careful when reintroducing fire into any long-unburned pine forest, even longleaf. Over time, pine needles and leaves build up and start decomposing into duff-semi-decomposed leaf litter. This eventually turns into humus. Duff and humus are high in organic matter and hold moisture. Over time, tree feeder roots grow up into this layer, looking for moisture and nutrients. These accumulations can get quite deep, especially around large, mature pines. If the accumulation isn't reduced by periodic burning, it will fuel extremely hot and smoldering fires when burning is reintroduced, killing the tree's feeder roots. The key to burning under these conditions of accumulated litter and duff is to always burn when the duff layer is moist and gradually reduce it with multiple burns spread out over a period of years rather than burn down to mineral soil in one burn.

Your question about raking around the trees is a good one. Yes, when burning stands that have red-cockaded woodpeckers, land managers sometimes rake around the trees. However, the difference is that's to prevent them from catching fire from the sap that typically runs down the trees from the nest cavities. You can get away with raking around the trees in frequently burned pine stands because the duff layer has been eliminated due to frequent fire. However, if you rake around trees with high levels of litter accumulations, you'll damage the feeder roots of those trees, just as you would with a smoldering duff fire.

There are no shortcuts reintroducing fire into long-unburned pine stands. Patience and persistence are the keys to success.

For additional information, please contact The Longleaf Alliance and request a copy of our brochure: *Restoration of Fire to Long-Unburned Longleaf Pine Forests*.

Best of luck with your burning efforts,
The Longleaf Alliance

You are at the center of everything we do



You own real assets and have goals for growth and returns.

We help grow your assets both in good times *and* in times of uncertainty.

We've been trusted advisors to landowners for over 70 years.

245 Stoneridge Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210
Phone: 803.788.0590
www.millikenforestry.com



Throughout the southeast, the American Forest Foundation (AFF) is building partnerships to **help family forest owners care for their land.**



AFF and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program have teamed up to invest resources that will improve forest management and benefit listed and at-risk wildlife species on family forest land.

Opportunities are currently available for landowners to receive financial and technical assistance for forest management activities in key landscapes within Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee.



American Forest Foundation



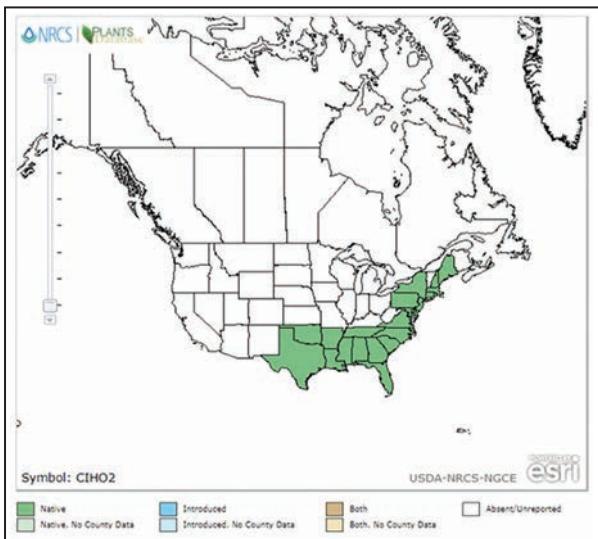
For more information, visit forestfoundation.org/usfws.

Understory

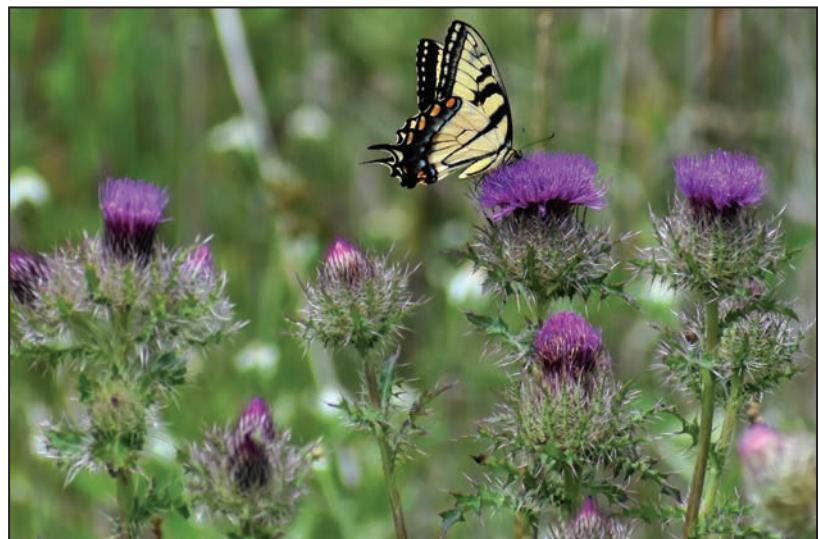
By Carol Denhof, The Longleaf Alliance

PLANT SPOTLIGHT

Cirsium horridulum Michx.
Yellow Thistle
Aster Family – Asteraceae



Map showing distribution of yellow thistle. USDA PLANTS Database.



Cirsium horridulum in flower with swallowtail butterfly. Photo by Sharleen Johnson.

Description

Yellow thistle is a robust herbaceous, biennial member of the sunflower family. It grows as a densely packed rosette of spiny leaves. The spiny leaves can measure up to a foot in length and four inches in width. The flowering stem emerges from the center of the basal rosette and is covered in long hairs. The reddish-purple to pale yellow flower heads are arranged in racemes at the top of the flowering stem. Flowering occurs from March to June. The seeds, that mature in the summer, have long white bristles that aid in seed distribution.

Distribution & Habitat

Yellow thistle tends to inhabit ruderal sites such as young tree plantations and rights-of-way. It occurs in all parts of the longleaf range from Virginia south to Florida and west to Texas.

Wildlife/Medicinal Uses

Yellow thistle tends to get a bad name due to its prickly nature. However, it is an important wildlife plant. The seeds are an important food for many songbirds, including American Goldfinch and Carolina Chickadee. The flowers are also an early-season nectar source for pollinators like swallowtail butterflies.

Plant Availability

This plant is not generally available commercially. However, the seed is easily wind dispersed, which makes it an early colonizer in disturbed and old field sites. It is also easy to propagate from seed.

References

- Miller, J.H. and K.V. Miller. 2005. *Forest Plants of the Southeast and their Wildlife Uses*. The University of Georgia Press. Athens, GA. 454pp.
- USDA, NRCS. 2020. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 6 November 2020). National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA.

WINDOW into WILDLIFE

By Lisa Lord, The Longleaf Alliance

Hummingbird clearwing moth

Hemaris thysbe (Fabricius, 1775)
Sphingidae Family



Hummingbird clearwing moth (*Hemaris thysbe*) on yellow thistle (*Cirsium horridulum*). Photo by Sharleen Johnson.

Description

Hummingbird clearwing moths are members of the sphinx moth family (Sphingidae) which includes around 125 species in North America and over 1,400 species throughout the world. They are clever mimics and are frequently mistaken for hummingbirds because of their appearance and characteristic way of darting from flower to flower and hovering as they feed, much like a hummingbird. They are also occasionally mistaken for bees.

These moths are 1-2" in length with thick, furry bodies. They have a greenish-yellow thorax, brownish-red abdomen, and white to yellowish forelegs. Their wings are clear with brownish-red borders and veins.

Distribution and Habitat

Hummingbird clearwing moths are found throughout much of the Eastern U.S., including all of the nine ‘longleaf states,’ and portions of Canada. These diurnal pollinators often reside in places with abundant flowers such as meadows, forest edges, open woodlands, and cultivated gardens. They feed on a wide variety of flowering plants including milkweeds, goldenrods, asters, thistles, and penstemons.

Life Cycle

In the southern portion of the range the hummingbird clearwing moth has two broods (March-June and August-October). The pupae overwinter in the soil and emerge in early spring as adults. Eggs are laid under plant leaves and hatch in 7-10 days. Larvae will feed on viburnums, hawthorns, cherries, plums, and members of the Ericaceae family. They pupate after developing for approximately 4 weeks.

References

- Lotts, K. and Naberhaus, T. 2017. Hummingbird Clearwing *Hemaris thysbe* (Fabricius, 1775). Butterflies and Moths of North America.
- Tartaglia, E.S. and Handel, S.N. 2014. Nectar Plant Preferences of *Hemaris* (Sphingiae: Lepidoptera) on Co-occurring Native *Cirsium* and Non-native *Centaurea* (Asteraceae) Inflorescences. Journal of Pollination Ecology, 13(19). 184-187pp.
- Wagner, D.L. 2005. *Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A Guide to Identification and Natural History*. Princeton University Press. Princeton, NJ. 268 pp.
- Wagner, D.L., Giles, V. Reardon, R.C. and McNamur, M.L. 1997. *Caterpillars of Eastern Forests*. U.S. Forest Service. FHTET-96-34. 15 pp.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN BREWERY

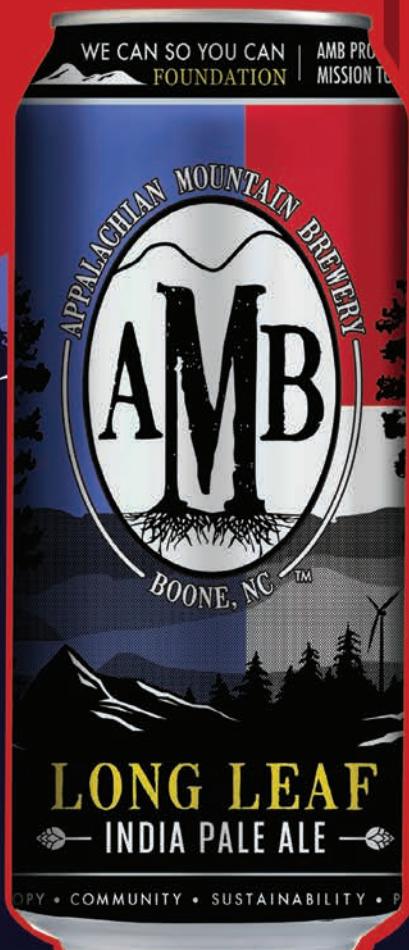


Drafts for Pines

JOIN US IN HELPING THE CONSERVATION AND HEALTH OF THE LONG LEAF PINE

HERE'S TO THE LAND
OF THE LONG LEAF PINE,

ONE LONG LEAF PINE
PLANTED FOR EVERY
CASE OF LONG LEAF
IPA SOLD



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



Pond 53 on Eglin Air Force Base during restoration. WEST team members are cutting and removing woody shrubs. Photo by Nicole Barys.

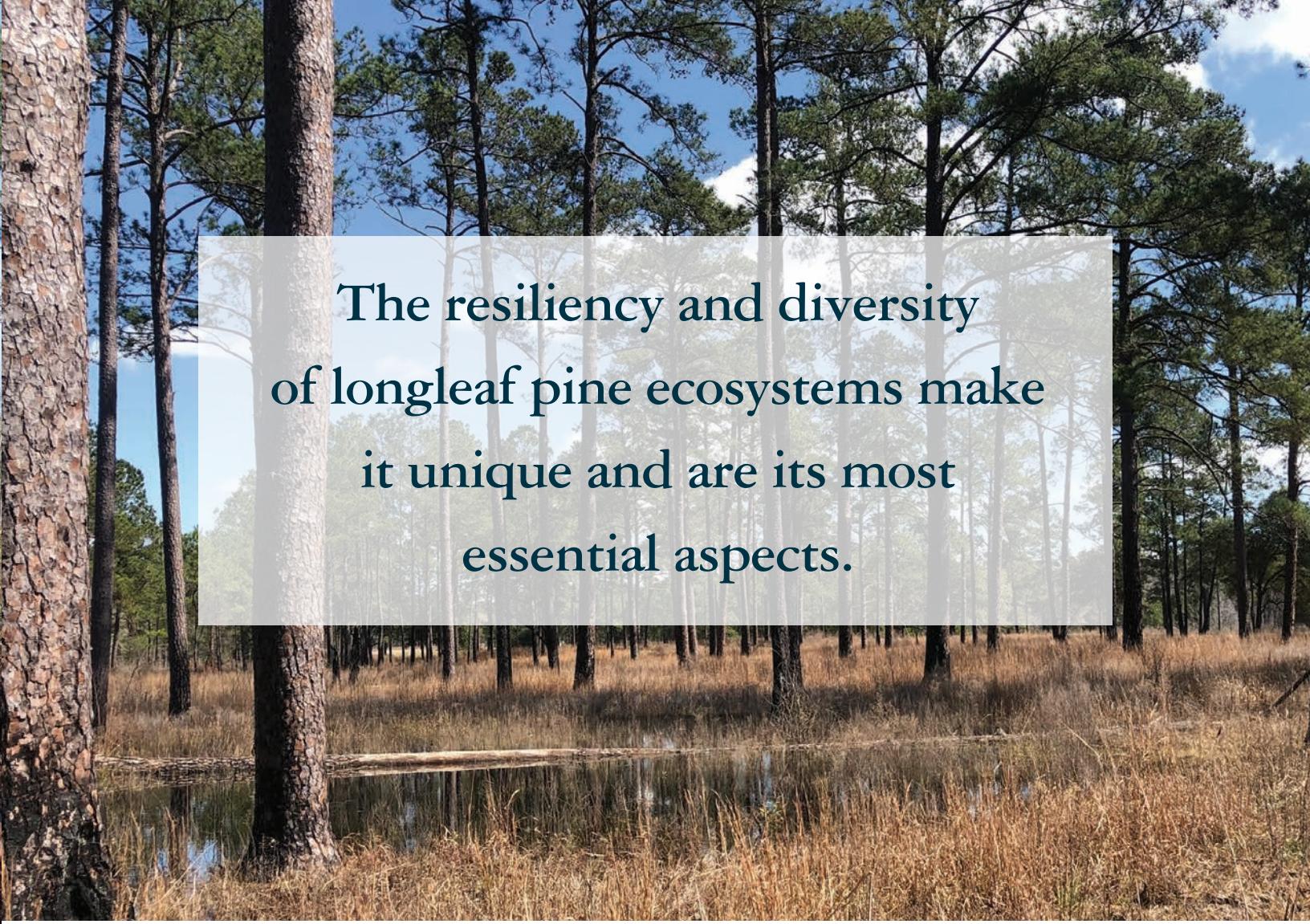
By Jessica Sandoval and Charlie Abeles, The Longleaf Alliance –

Wetland Restoration: A Tool for Creating Diverse, Resilient Lands

The past year presented us with numerous challenges and obstacles, including a record-breaking Atlantic hurricane season with 30 named storms and five major hurricanes. As we experience more unpredictable and severe weather, it becomes increasingly important to consider our forests' resiliency. As a native coastal species, properly managed longleaf pine often has a higher tolerance to severe weather (such as wind and droughts) than other southern pines. Furthermore, there are many significant natural communities embedded within the longleaf ecosystem that improve the resiliency of our communities and their ability to withstand and recover quickly from these threats. Wetlands, in particular, provide essential ecosystem services in the face of climate change and ecological challenges.

Why Wetlands?

Wetlands act as a storm surge buffer and sink for flood storage. When large rain events occur, like hurricanes making landfall, wetlands take the brunt of the impact and offer protection to inland resources. Nutrient and pollution inputs from agricultural or urban runoff are filtered or stored by the wetlands, playing an important role in water quality maintenance. On top of these functions, wetlands have a high intrinsic value; if managed properly, they will provide high-quality habitat to numerous wildlife species, including many rare plants and animals. These ecosystems also provide opportunities for recreation that many people utilize and want to see protected. All of this to say, there are many important benefits from continuing to protect, maintain, and restore our wetlands.



The resiliency and diversity of longleaf pine ecosystems make it unique and are its most essential aspects.

Embedded wetlands are integral to the longleaf pine landscape, supporting important plant and wildlife species. Photo by Lisa Lord.

In the Southeast, fire-maintained wetlands are critical habitats for many species of greatest conservation need. Degradation of these habitats from inappropriate fire regimes is sometimes the primary reason for population declines of wildlife species. Fire exclusion alters wetland tree canopy closure, shrub density, and litter accumulation resulting in impacts to vegetation composition, wetland productivity, solar radiation, water temperature, water chemistry, hydrology, and nutrient cycling. Addressing the threat of succession in wetland habitats can have an acute, positive effect on declining wildlife populations.

Restoring Fire

Reintroduction of fire into areas that have been fire-suppressed is a challenge. Land managers and landowners in the Southeast have successfully used prescribed burns to maintain upland habitats, but embedded wetlands are often neglected during implementation. This is often the result of dormant season burning—a time when fire behavior may be more manageable but also when seasonal wetlands are more likely to be

holding water. Fires implemented at these times burn up to the saturated boundaries of wetlands but often do not carry through them. Historically, natural fires caused by lightning strikes occurred during transitional periods under conditions allowing for fire to reduce woody competition in wetlands. Ideally, these ephemeral wetlands would have an open canopy and plenty of sunlight reaching the basin to encourage herbaceous growth.

On the other hand, in a fire-suppressed wetland, a closed canopy and a dense mid-story of woody species can shade out the understory and eliminate much of the native ground cover. Increased leaf litter and canopy closure from woody encroachment may change water composition (e.g., pH, dissolved oxygen) within the wetland. Evapotranspiration rates may be influenced by midstory overgrowth resulting in shorter hydroperiods. These changes in water quality and hydrology may negatively impact native plant assemblages and wildlife.

Additionally, the accumulation of litter and duff is an obstacle for prescribed burn managers and landowners. If we base our strategies on natural fire regimes, the ideal time to burn would



Pond 53 on Eglin Air Force Base after mechanical treatment by the WEST Team. Photo by Kaiden Spurlock.



Reticulated flatwoods salamander (*Ambystoma bishopi*). Photo by Jessica Sandoval.

be when wetlands are dry during the lightning season (late spring or summer). However, dormant season burns may be necessary to reduce fuel loads before growing season burns are considered a safe option by land managers. As they try to navigate crew safety, fire behavior, and smoke management concerns, it can be challenging to restore wetlands with fire alone.

Removing mid-story shrubs and trees prior to burns can drastically improve restoration efforts allowing prescribed fire to peel away at duff layers accumulated during periods without fire. This process involves using chainsaws and brush cutters to cut down trees and shrubs, remove them from the wetland basin, and treat the cut stumps with herbicides. This biomass is then strategically placed on the outskirts of the wetland so the debris will burn and provide fuel during the next prescribed fire. When followed up with growing season burns, this technique creates suitable habitat for rare ground cover species, including many carnivorous plants. Reducing woody vegetation may also result in a longer hydroperiod, a limiting factor for many pond breeding amphibians. This is one of the methods The Longleaf Alliance uses in the Gulf Coastal Plains to restore seasonal wetland habitat.

Resilient and Diverse Partnerships

The resiliency and diversity of longleaf pine ecosystems make it unique and are its most essential aspects. As stewards of the land, we should focus on the maintenance and restoration of habitats and ecosystems that provide crucial services to our communities, especially the often-overlooked wetlands. This will require more growing season fire and ongoing hand and mechanical restoration efforts by partners in the longleaf range. Building and maintaining partnerships with diverse groups is crucial to restore longleaf ecosystem resiliency on both public and private lands. The Longleaf Alliance, in collaboration with its many partners, looks forward to continuing this work in years to come.

Public Land Partnerships: Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander

Like many amphibian species, the federally endangered reticulated flatwoods salamander (*Ambystoma bishopi* or RFS for short) depends on well-maintained, seasonally inundated wetlands within the longleaf ecosystem. Extirpated from much of its historical range, they are currently found in the western panhandle of Florida and southern Georgia, with two of the last strongholds located on Eglin Air Force Base and Escribano Point Wildlife Management Area.

The Longleaf Alliance (LLA) is involved in a recovery effort supported by the Department of Defense (DoD), the DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The LLA employs teams dedicated to year-round wetland restoration and prescribed burning; the Ecosystem Support Team (EST), the Wetland Ecosystem Support Team (WEST), and the AMBBIS (short for *Ambystoma bishopi*) Seasonal Restoration Team have assisted with vegetation removal on several sites within the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership (GCPEP) landscape.

In addition, the AMBBIS Team is tasked with running the head-starting program to augment the declining RFS population. Several field crews have been instrumental in reaching restoration goals. Our partners at Eglin Air Force Base and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are also applying progressive land management techniques in wetlands where hand restoration is not feasible, mainly the use of heavy equipment to remove encroaching species and to scrape up the accumulated duff layer.



Engaging Private Landowners: Gopher Frogs in South Carolina By Lisa Lord, The Longleaf Alliance

Much of the high-quality habitat for rare species is on private land because of outstanding stewardship. Landowners continue to have an important role in protecting rare species, including those that go largely unnoticed, like the gopher frog. This is why The Longleaf Alliance, Dr. Stacey Lance, a research scientist at UGA's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program are working hand in hand with landowners on a new project. The team's efforts involve surveying private lands to better understand the species status while looking for reintroduction opportunities. Frog searching includes using acoustic loggers, visual searches for egg masses, and collecting water samples for DNA analysis.

The team is also working with landowners to improve their habitat. Gopher frogs are associated with a suite of other amphibians, and improving potential gopher frog habitat creates a more resilient landscape that benefits the species associated with the same habitat. Many landowners involved in this project are now enthusiastic about the benefits their improved management offers to wildlife on their land, even those wildlife to which they were initially unaware.

The potential for where gopher frogs could be hiding is vast. Within the historical range and known remaining suitable habitat, there are hundreds of wetlands to explore. The team is grappling with envisioning a site's history and how the past impacted (or is still impacting) the presence or absence of the species. Even if the habitat is suitable today, prior management or land uses may have eliminated the frogs who remain unable to recolonize.

Despite the challenges, LLA, SREL, and the USFWS have high hopes for this project and what it could mean for species recovery. It exemplifies how public and private partners and landowners can work together to conserve and create resilient habitat for priority species.

References

- Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). 2008. Natural and Beneficial Floodplain Functions: Floodplain Management—More Than Flood Loss Reduction. Madison, WI: ASFPM.
- Battle, J., and S. W. Golladay. 2003. Prescribed fire's impact on water quality of depressional wetlands in southwestern Georgia. *American Midland Naturalist* 150: 15-25.
- Clark, K.E., E. Chin, M.N. Peterson, K. Lackstrom, K. Dow, M. Foster, and F. Cubbage. 2018. Evaluating climate change planning for longleaf pine ecosystems in the Southeast United States. *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* 5:160-168
- Gorman, T. A., C. A. Hass, and D. C. Bishop. 2009. Factors related to occupancy of breeding wetlands by flatwoods salamander larvae. *Wetlands* 29: 323-329.
- Kirkman, L. K. 1995. Impacts of fire and hydrological regimes on vegetation in depression wetlands of southeastern USA. Pages 10-20 in Susan I. Cerulean and R. Todd Engstrom, eds. *Fire in wetlands: a management perspective*. Proceedings of the Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Conference, No. 19. Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, FL.
- Klaus, J. M., and R. F. Noss. 2016. Specialist and generalist amphibians respond to wetland restoration treatments. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 80: 1106-1119.
- Pilliard, D. S., R. B. Bury, E. J. Hyde, C. A. Pearl, and P. S. Corn. 2003. Fire and amphibians in North America. *Forest Ecology and Management* 178: 163-181.

LLA teams implemented mechanical treatments in 18 wetlands this past year. AMBBIS Seasonal Team members pictured are Sean Moyer, Julianna O'Bar, Ronald Henderson, and Abraham Huang. Photo by Charlie Abeles.



2020

A Year of Progress Amidst Challenges

While this past year was nothing like any of us anticipated, The Longleaf Alliance still made significant strides toward our mission to ensure the sustainable future of longleaf pine ecosystems. We adapted to new protocols, continued field work safely, and shifted to virtual delivery when able. From gopher tortoises to prescribed fire, our programs continue to follow our GUIDE-ing framework. The Alliance's G.U.I.D.E. acronym (Growing - Understanding - Improving - Diverse - Ecosystems) identifies our key strategic longleaf objectives.

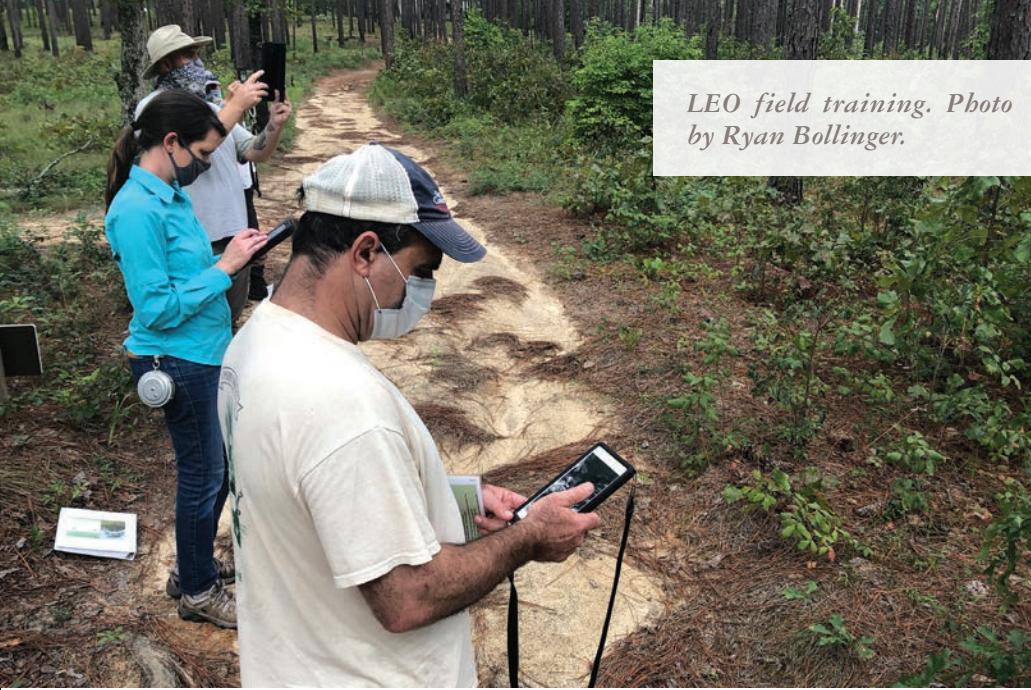
GROWING — We raise awareness, increase engagement, and grow a love for longleaf across the range.

The Longleaf Alliance (LLA) staff and our prescribed fire ambassador, Burner Bob®, were able to attend the Southeastern Wildlife Expo in Charleston, SC, with more than 48,000 attendees in February. While Burner Bob® missed sharing the benefits of “good fire” at the rest of the year’s scheduled events due to cancellations, his outreach continues through his Facebook page, coloring books for school-aged children, and videos.

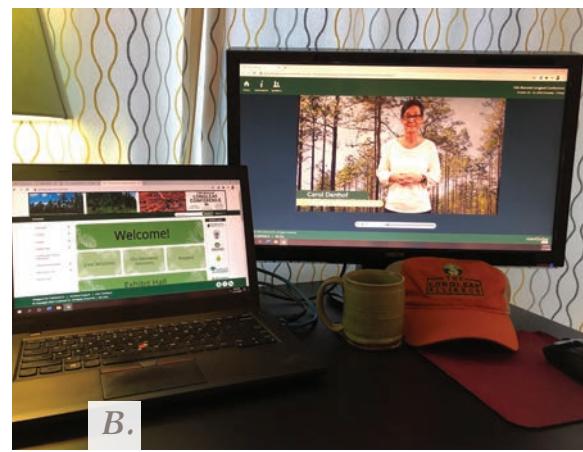
Burner Bob® and his friends at Georgia Department of Natural Resources received the 2nd place National Education Award from the Association for Conservation Information during this year’s Virtual Livestream Award Presentation.

We are also sharing longleaf outreach activities, books, and resources online, via partner e-newsletters, and in *The Longleaf Leader*. This year, the magazine’s “In the Grass Stage” section is highlighting outreach ideas to inspire our readers’ inner educator. We are partnering with the Alabama Project Learning Tree to share longleaf content in their four quarterly newsletters, including a new extension activity called “Slice of the Longleaf Pie” to demonstrate the decline of longleaf pine ecosystems.

UNDERSTANDING — We collect and share technical information about longleaf through science-based education, outreach, and technical assistance through methods best for each audience.



A.



B.



C.

A. In partnership with the University of Georgia Savannah River Ecology Lab (SREL), we have been head-starting gopher tortoises since 2017. This year 76 one-year-old tortoises were released, with some special assistance from Jackson Lord, and 41 eggs collected for rearing and release next year. Photo by Lisa Lord.

B. Carol Denhof, plenary speaker, at the Virtual Longleaf Conference in October 2020. Photo by Ryan Bollinger.

C. Lynnsey Basala, LLA, planting longleaf pines at a Triangle Land Conservancy property in North Carolina. Volunteers planted trees provided by the Pints for Pines program with Appalachian Mountain Brewing. Photo courtesy of LLA.

Technical Education & Outreach

Early in 2020, LLA held two Longleaf Academies with partners - a Longleaf 101 sponsored by the SoLoACE LIT in South Carolina and a Fire & Longleaf 201 Academy with cooperation from Tall Timbers Research Station. Despite the postponement of many other in-person events, our educational offerings continued, with over 40 webinars, lectures, meetings, and media interviews in 2020. Technical assists with private landowners and land managers also carried on by various methods, including phone, email, website, and in-person, when safe to do so. In 2020, our staff responded to approximately 600 technical assistance requests on topics ranging from site preparation to planting to harvesting, and from financial incentives to ecosystem restoration.

The 13th Biennial Longleaf Conference

The 13th Biennial Longleaf Conference was held on October 20-23, 2020, virtually. Following the conference's long-standing tradition as the largest longleaf focused event, the virtual

format provided a wider variety of content for private landowners, government agency personnel, non-profit staff, and industrial representatives. We were proud to host 475 conference participants, including registered attendees, speakers, working group members, and students. The virtual conference allowed for a novel offering – 135 students from the University of North Carolina Greensboro Ecology course used the conference platform as part of a 2-week lab assignment. With a full year of content access, the conference will continue to be a resource for the longleaf community, and the participation number will grow.

The Southeastern LEO Geodatabase Project

The Southeast Longleaf Ecosystem Occurrences (LEO) Geodatabase is a shareable GIS database of longleaf pine ecosystem occurrences throughout the range. Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) and LLA are working in close coordination with America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative, the Longleaf Partnership Council, and local partners to deliver this tool for

conservation planning and progress tracking. The project consists of compiling existing longleaf pine data, delineating potential longleaf areas for field assessments, and deploying field teams to perform standardized assessments utilizing a mobile app designed for this purpose. As of October 2020, 5,560 sites have been surveyed, and 250,000 acres of longleaf not previously mapped have been documented. More sites are being evaluated everyday in Georgia, Texas, Louisiana, and throughout the range. The LEO Geodatabase v.1 and web map are available to ALRI partners through a data license agreement. The next update is expected to be released in early 2021.

IMPROVING FOREST HEALTH —

Through active stewardship, we improve the condition of longleaf ecosystems across the range.

Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership Landscape Restoration

The highest priorities in the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership (GCPEP) Conservation Plan include prescribed fire, invasive species control, and recovery of rare species. To assist partners with these priorities, several LLA teams, including the EST (Ecosystem Support Team), WEST (Wetland Ecosystem Support Team), and the AMBBIS (reticulated flatwoods salamander) team, are helping to support restoration activities on private and public lands. The GCPEP teams' accomplishments include 58,980 acres of prescribed fire on partner lands in Alabama and Florida, invasive species control efforts totaling 3,142.22 acres, mid-story treatments of 21.5 acres, and restoration completed or in progress in 18 isolated wetlands.

The AMBBIS Team continued to lead the reticulated flatwood salamander head-starting program with 488 salamanders released through 2020.



In the fall of 2020, LLA worked with partners in South Carolina to translocate 25 red-cockaded woodpeckers from the Francis Marion National Forest to state and private lands with suitable habitat. Since 2016, 109 RCWs have been translocated as part of this recovery initiative. Photo by Lisa Lord.

DIVERSE FORESTS CONSERVED — We work with landowners to ensure the future of longleaf by conserving high-quality, diverse longleaf forests across generations.

The LLA is conserving diverse forests through land protection, connecting landowners to ecosystem services opportunities, and working with landowners to keep forests as forests.

Because of the significant relationship between forests and water, LLA is a lead partner in the Savannah River Clean Water Fund (SRCWF), which supports the protection of water quality in the Lower Savannah River Basin. The Savannah River watershed provides drinking water to more than 1.5 million people in two states and was formed in 2014 to help facilitate a holistic approach to land protection in the 2.79 million-acre watershed. The 2020 project is still being finalized at the time of this writing and is anticipated to close the first week in December.

ECOSYSTEMS RESTORED —

Through advocacy, policies, assistance, partners, and our own management actions, we facilitate the expansion of longleaf ecosystems across the range.

The Longleaf Alliance, working in collaboration with restoration partners, planted 3.2 million longleaf pine seedlings and established 333 acres of groundcover in fiscal year 2020. Planting projects were completed on both private and public land, with funding from Enviva Biomass, Arbor Day Foundation, Georgia Pacific, National Forest Foundation, One Tree Planted, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and National Wild Turkey Federation. We also continued our tree planting

program with Appalachian Mountain Brewing and Georgia-Pacific's Aria® brand.



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.
850-673-7421



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 • (270)-531-3034 • www.roundstoneseed.com

All images courtesy of Richard Broadwell.

LANDOWNER SPOTLIGHT

Bayfields

A Labor of Love for the Broadwell Family

The Broadwell Family, Richard, Dohn, Jr., and Charles Broadwell and posthumously Dohn Broadwell, Sr. are the 2020 Gjerstad/Johnson Landowners of the Year. Recently recognized at the 2020 Regional Longleaf Awards Virtual Presentation at the 13th Biennial Longleaf Conference, the award aims to recognize a private landowner for ensuring the future of the longleaf ecosystem on private land, and they are certainly doing that at Bayfields with its diverse, ecologically-significant habitats, including longleaf pine.

The Broadwell family property, Bayfields, began with the vision of Dohn Broadwell, Sr. and his brother Waverly who started purchasing land in Bladen County, North Carolina back in the early 1970s. With a shared interest in waterfowl hunting, their original motivation was to build a duck hunting impoundment on the property. Over the years, they acquired adjoining parcels and became more involved in forest management.

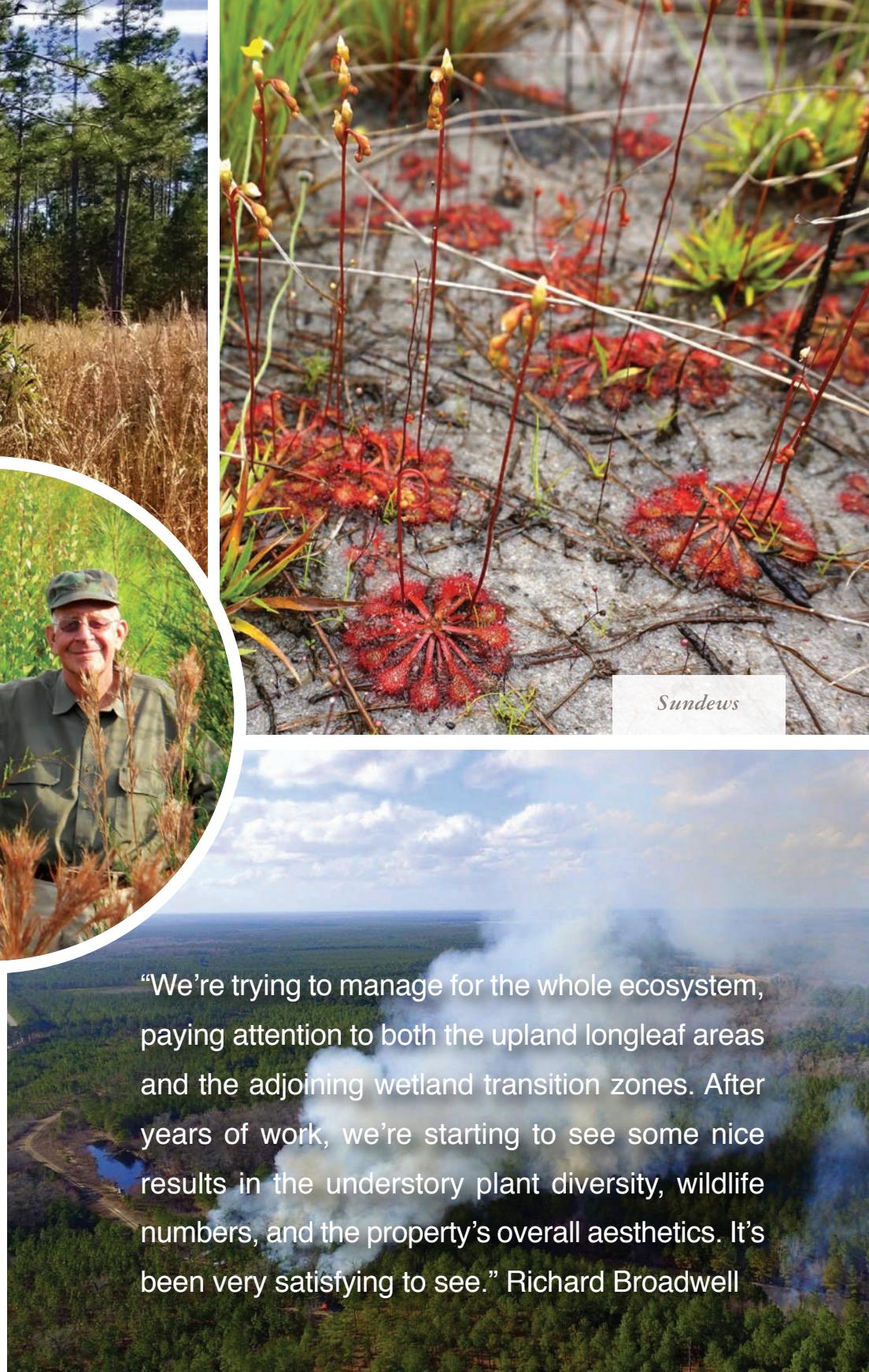
Growing up in rural southeastern Georgia, quail hunting was a favorite sport in the pine woods around their childhood home. Richard Broadwell, one of Dohn Sr.'s three sons, says,

"A lot of the longleaf restoration work that my father did was oriented towards enhancing the quail populations on the property. He got immense satisfaction from managing the land, figuring out solutions to wildlife and forestry issues, conducting controlled burns, etc. It really was a labor of love for him. I have many memories of my father sitting in his den late at night reading the latest publication from The Longleaf Alliance, Tall Timbers Research Station, or Quail Unlimited." While Dohn Sr. diligently attended to the longleaf, his greatest pride and joy lay in his Atlantic white cedar, which he established in most of the property's bays. The 1,000 acres



Dohn Broadwell, Sr.'s forest management efforts extended beyond longleaf pine and included the establishment of 1,000 acres of Atlantic white cedar in the property's bays.

Prescribed fire is a management priority for the Broadwell family.



"We're trying to manage for the whole ecosystem, paying attention to both the upland longleaf areas and the adjoining wetland transition zones. After years of work, we're starting to see some nice results in the understory plant diversity, wildlife numbers, and the property's overall aesthetics. It's been very satisfying to see." Richard Broadwell

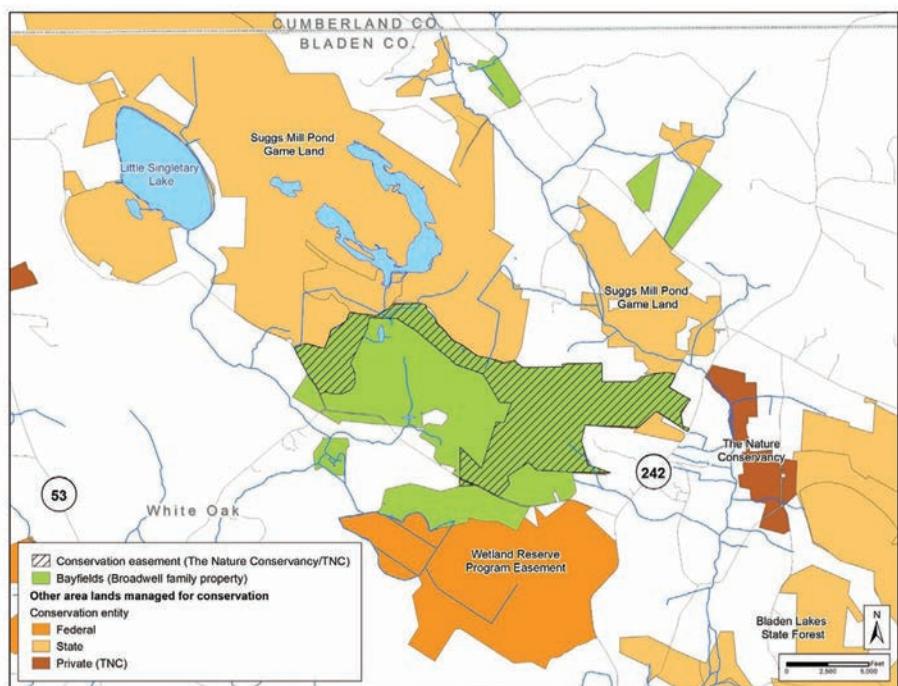
of Atlantic white cedar is the largest expanse of artificially regenerated cedar on the east coast. Dohn, Sr. loved giving tours of his cedars and even opened the property to university and state agency personnel for research and wildlife surveys, a tradition carried on by the next generation.

Since the passing of Dohn Broadwell, Sr., his sons Charles, Dohn, Jr., and Richard, jointly own the Bayfields property, now totaling 4,000 acres. According to Richard, "My brothers and I enjoy working together on our father's long-term vision for the property by continuing to restore and manage our

longleaf stands. The property is an assemblage of many smaller adjoining tracts with varying levels of agriculture and industrial forestry in the past. Many areas that naturally would have supported longleaf pine are currently planted loblolly and slash pine stands. We are replanting these areas in longleaf after their final harvest. In the meantime, we're aggressively thinning and burning the stands to enhance the native groundcover." Richard has written a comprehensive forest management plan with detailed data on the property's flora and fauna. Prescribed burning is a management priority, accomplished primarily by the family, with assistance from local contractors and The Nature Conservancy.

Contributing to the network of conservation lands in Bladen County, North Carolina, the Bayfields property has several protections in place. In 2007, Dohn, Sr. donated a 1,700-acre conservation easement to The Nature Conservancy to ensure its permanent protection. Later the family enrolled 443 acres in the Red-cockaded Woodpecker Safe Harbor Program with plans to enroll more. A portion of the property is in the North Carolina Black Bear Sanctuary

Program. The Broadwell Family's active, forward-thinking forest management and commitment to natural resource conservation on this unique private property is an inspiration to all.



Bayfields serves as a key connector for conservation lands in the Bladen Lakes area of North Carolina.



Drax Biomass is a manufacturer of compressed wood pellets produced from sustainably managed working forests. Headquartered in Monroe, LA, with operations in Louisiana and Mississippi, the company is committed to supporting the communities in which we operate by promoting sustainable forestry and investing in local economic development.

drax



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

Seek by iNaturalist

By Kyle E. Harms, Louisiana State University

A Mobile App for Species Identifications in the Field



Plant identification in our southeastern U.S. biodiversity hotspot can be quite challenging. Many sites have dozens of grass species, oodles of forbs with basal leaf rosettes, and umpteen species of trifoliate legumes! Taxonomic keys, well-curated botanical reference material, and the skills of expert botanists all remain just as valuable today as they were before we all carried around smartphones in our pockets. Even so, our smartphones now put the possibility of provisional plant identifications anywhere we roam.

Several freely available plant identification mobile apps exist, but I want you to know about Seek by iNaturalist, which was released two years ago. A few months ago, I was introduced to the app on an outing with family and friends to The Nature Conservancy's Abita Creek Flatwoods Preserve in southeastern Louisiana, a site I have often visited and am familiar with its species-rich groundcover. As we botanized, I noticed that my tech-savvy LSU colleague, Bret, was quickly pulling accurate species IDs from his phone. He said he had been using the app Seek for a few months and was pleased with its coverage across taxa wherever he had used it. We decided to challenge the app with a variety of plants, including the trunk of a longleaf pine (to which it responded *Pinus*). Of course, the app does better

when the phone's camera can see more of the plant than just its stem. I was especially impressed when Bret's phone nearly immediately recognized narrowleaf primrose-willow (*Ludwigia linearis*), with neither flowers nor fruits, as my faulty memory struggled to find a match for its strap-like cauline leaves from among all the various superficially similar species of *Eupatorium*, *Euthamia*, *Liatris*, and others that were hopelessly tangled in my brain.

Seek represents a wonderfully useful confluence of big data, citizen science, and sophisticated computer technology. Seek is a product of iNaturalist - the natural history data-sharing and social networking platform - which has become a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and The National Geographic Society. These tools use machine learning and image recognition software to match new images to the observations that previous users have made with them. Similar to Wikipedia, these tools get better the more folks contribute their observations and expertise (i.e., the data grows and the recognition software improves). And, of course, their utility is not restricted to plants. These apps also give you a leg up for identifying insects, spiders, fungi, herps, etc.

Seek is easy to use. Once installed, tap the camera icon in the app, and point your camera at your organism of interest. Seek tells you whether to move the camera for a better angle. Before you even snap a photo, potential identification names appear as Seek narrows down the taxonomic hierarchy - often beginning with family, then genus, and ending on species. I have found this to be exceedingly useful for quick best-guess field IDs. The app can also provide additional information about the species you encounter, e.g., geographic distribution, basic biology, etc.

Seek does not require user accounts nor logins, is adult-and-kid-friendly, and is especially safe to use because it does not share the user's location information. Just like iNaturalist, Seek is free and is available for iPhone (iOS) or Android operating systems. Seek



also provides some additional features, such as electronic badges for kids to earn as they accumulate natural history observations, as well as the ability for those who have iNaturalist accounts to post their Seek observations to iNaturalist, which is how users help expand the underlying database for both tools. Qualified users are also encouraged to lend their expertise toward making positive identifications of posted observations within iNaturalist, helping improve the accuracy and coverage of both tools. My advice for anyone looking for a good all-around "pocket field guide"—Seek, and ye shall find!

*Dylan Harms using the Seek app.
Photo by Kyle Harms.*

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
sales@ernstseed.com
800-873-3321



**“DEEP ROOTS
ARE NOT REACHED
BY THE FROST.”**

J.R.R. Tolkien

Founded in 1905, Molpus Woodlands Group is one of the oldest timber-related companies in the nation with experience in all facets of timber management, manufacturing, and marketing. We have invested more than \$3.7 billion across 3.8 million acres in the U.S. and currently manage over 1.7 million acres in seventeen states.



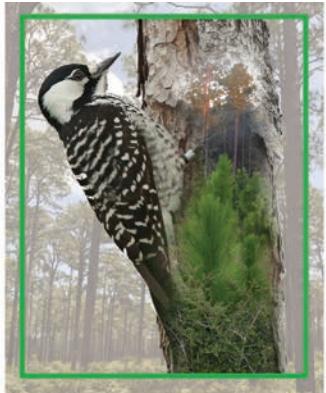
In considering performance of investments referred to above, prospective timberland investors should keep in mind that prior performance of Molpus investments is not indicative of future results and there can be no assurance that Molpus will achieve comparable results in the near future. No information herein constitutes an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to subscribe for or buy any security with respect to any fund or to provide any investment advice.

Your Reliable Source for Sustainable Biomass Fuel



info@framfuels.com
www.framfuels.com
Office: (912) 375-3068
Fax: (912) 375-3069

**WORKING FORESTS,
WORK FOR LONGLEAF**



The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® supports biodiversity conservation on millions of acres of Southern forest, in partnership with The Longleaf Alliance, landowners and government agencies.

Learn more:

sfiprogram.org/conservation



BETTER CHOICES
FOR THE PLANET



PRT[®]

Trusted to grow™

For all your container seedling needs contact:

Flynn Miller

Flynn.miller@prt.com / 706-714-4108

www.prt.com

FORESTATE GROWERS LLC



Containerized Pine Seedlings

Jacob Moore, Forester & Owner

1535 Harvey Vickers Road ♦ PO Box 2198 ♦ Douglas, GA 31534-2198
912-592-0542 ♦ jacob@forestatelc.com ♦ www.forestategrowers.com



Coastal Pine Straw

NATURE'S PERFECT MULCH

Michael H. Dugan

706.533.6072

tahoemd2622@yahoo.com

2476 B McDowell Street

Augusta, Georgia 30904

Southern Gates®
COLLECTION

Proud to Support
the Work of the
Longleaf Alliance

Corporate
Gift
Opportunities
Available

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



© 2019 All rights reserved. Southern Gates® collection is a registered trademark of The Cargo Hold, Inc.

Chris Erwin, right,
with Salem Saloom



News from the Longleaf Partnership Council

*By Chris Erwin, American Forest Foundation,
Longleaf Partnership Council Chair*

A new journey is best begun
by reflecting on from where
we have come.

Raised in the wiregrass region, hiking and camping came naturally to me, but it took a lot of work and guidance to find my way here. I was heartened to hear from Carol Denhof, the value she places on mentorship, and would like to take a moment to honor a few mentors in my life with longleaf.

While serving in the U.S. Air Force in Alaska, it became clear that my career path would involve the natural sciences. While home on leave, my mother recommended setting up an appointment with Dr. Lindsay Boring at the Jones Ecological Research Center. She knew my passion and knew Dr. Boring could help me find focus. He spent an afternoon with me in the woods, answering questions, and more importantly, highlighting all the questions yet to be answered and challenging me to be part of the solution.

Entering graduate school at Auburn University's School of Forestry required a summer at the Solon Dixon Center near Andalusia, Alabama. The purpose was to ensure I truly appreciated the South Alabama heat, snakes, and mosquitoes before investing tens of thousands of dollars in my education. This was no issue for me; however, being a newlywed and spending the first ten weeks of my "honeymoon" in the woods with fifty strangers did present a challenge. As my commitment wavered, Rhett Johnson and Dean Gjerstad spent an evening with me opening my eyes and capturing my imagination to the possibility of having a purpose in life that was greater than a 9-to-5 existence. I never looked back and have no regrets.

It is easy to remember where, when, and how I met many people in my life. But for Salem Saloom, it is as if he has always been there. Always encouraging. I first visited his and Dianne's farm while conducting a Tree Farm certification. I was struck by his passion, knowledge, and work ethic. His pride in the farm was apparent. Then Hurricane Ivan hit, and he and Dianne lost nearly half their farm. It could have broken him, body and spirit. But it didn't, and he rebuilt his farm, smarter and stronger. It was then that I truly appreciated what landowners do for society and in many ways goes unrecognized.

Jonathan Scott, with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and I have spent the last four years working on increasing capacity to engage family forest owners in longleaf restoration across the range. We supported projects across eleven landscapes at the intersection of family-owned lands, at-risk wildlife, and the demand for wood and fiber for products. By most measures, we were very successful. I will be forever grateful for the time we've had together conducting some of the most meaningful work of my career.

As I take the responsibility of chairing the Longleaf Partnership Council this year, it is with gratitude to Tiffany Woods and all those before her for their service. I will continue to facilitate the dialogue among the longleaf stakeholders and honor those who have mentored me by encouraging even more participation. Two young professionals on my team had the opportunity to participate in The Longleaf Alliance's virtual conference; they learned a lot and were able to network. Great job, Carol and team! Tiffany Woods began the Longleaf Partnership Council's first foray into the virtual world, and the leadership team will continue hosting virtual meetings in 2021. We are excited about the potential to have broader participation in this new environment and look forward to the journey ahead.

Texas Longleaf Implementation Team: A Recipe for Success

*By Jenny Sanders,
Texas Longleaf Taskforce Coordinator*



Since its formation in 2014, the Texas Longleaf Implementation Team (TLIT) has leveraged \$1.1 million cost-share funds into longleaf projects on more than 35,000 acres, resulting in a total longleaf restoration and enhancement value of over \$2 million.

The recipe for this success? The right people, guided by sound science, utilizing defensible and transparent processes, with tools and technologies that allow them to engage forest landowners in a quality product of longleaf restoration.

PEOPLE

The most critical element of any successful effort is the team that leads it. Largely due to the leadership of founding coordinator Kent Evans, the TLIT has quickly developed into a diverse, dedicated, and experienced partnership of longleaf champions.

DIVERSITY isn't just a critical concept for ecosystems – it's also a key ingredient for effective teams. The TLIT is no exception. Comprised of state and federal agency personnel, NGOs, academia, Timber Investment Management Organization (TIMO) and Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) representatives, industry professionals, and individual landowners, the group reflects the landscape they are charged with impacting.

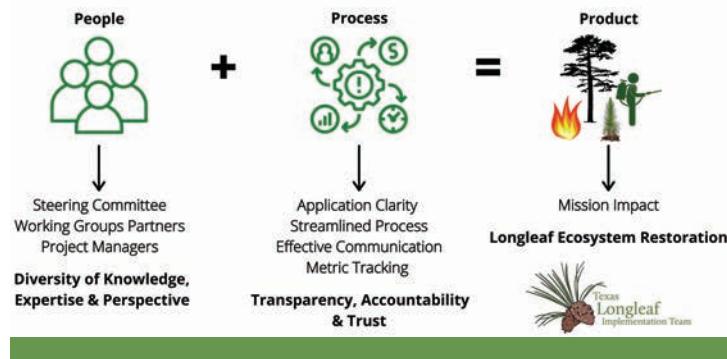
This diversity of expertise, programmatic contribution, perspective, audience reach, and available resources allows the Texas team to reach landowners where they are and provide the resources needed to get them over the finish line of longleaf restoration and management.

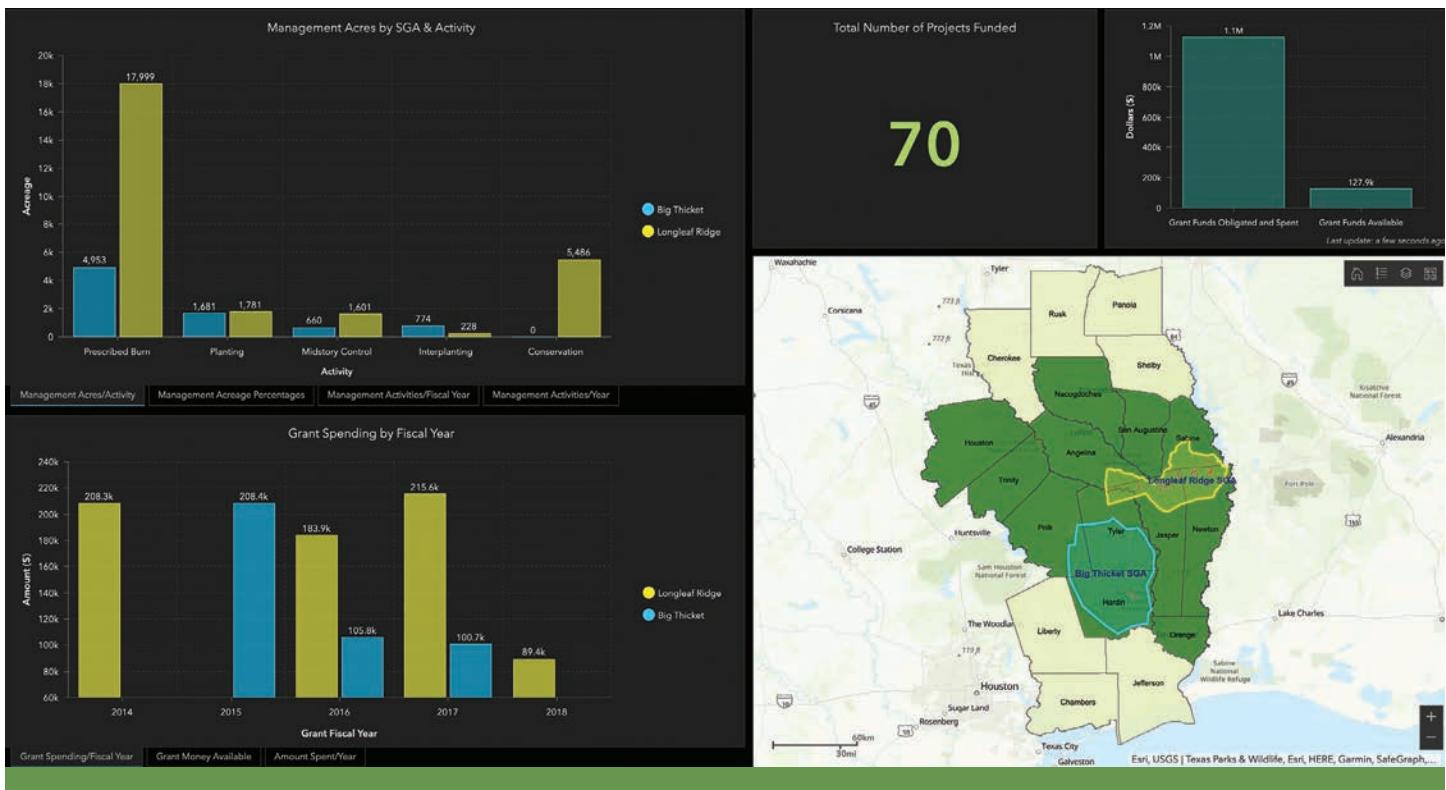
Land ownership trends, as well as evolving landowner goals, have proved to be compatible with longleaf restoration efforts in Texas. With non-industrial private forest (NIPF) owners increasingly focused on the wildlife and recreational values of their forestland, and TIMOs and REITs placing more emphasis on social responsibility and ecosystem health, the case for longleaf restoration becomes easier and easier to make.

The TLIT also benefits from numerous partnerships with overlapping missions and target audiences. Notable examples include the Northeast Texas Conservation De-

livery Network (NETXCDN) and the East Texas Natives (ETN) Project. The NETXCDN gathers grant funding for deployment across much of the same range as the TLIT, and with significant membership overlap, the partnership facilitates leveraged effort for maximization of resource development and conservation impact. Similarly, ETN is a collaborative effort to

3 Ps of TLIT Success:



*Texas longleaf accomplishments dashboard*

develop regionally adapted native seed sources to support native plant restoration efforts in East Texas. Tyler Wayland, the local director for the project, serves as the chair of the TLIT Ground-cover Working Group and provides critical resources and guidance for our groundcover restoration efforts. These and other partnership groups bring a diverse team-approach to our restoration challenges.

PROCESS

The TLIT is eternally focused on adaptability and maintaining relevance for funders, partners, and especially landowners. Active working groups and teams provide insight and perspective needed to achieve these objectives.

The Communications Team focused recent efforts on digital content development, including resource pages on www.txlongleaf.org that educate visitors about the values of longleaf, effective management strategies, available assistance, and new pages highlighting birds and groundcover plants of the longleaf forest. A bi-weekly e-newsletter and Facebook page were each launched over the last year to help disseminate new content, share news, and develop a sense of community among longleaf enthusiasts and partners.

The Mapping and Data Support Group continually tracks the progress of efforts across the landscape; it utilizes the best historical data, past successes, and current conditions to establish strategic priorities for project funding. Most recently, this group worked with the Texas A&M Forest Service to develop an interactive dashboard to track program accomplishments and evaluate needs and trends.

The Project Review Working Group develops grant funding protocols, including the establishment of application procedures and reimbursement rates, identifying approved practices, and project management, monitoring, and tracking.

Lastly, a newly-formed Partnerships Working Group works to develop and nurture partnerships with mission-aligned organizations and groups to further the work of longleaf restoration.

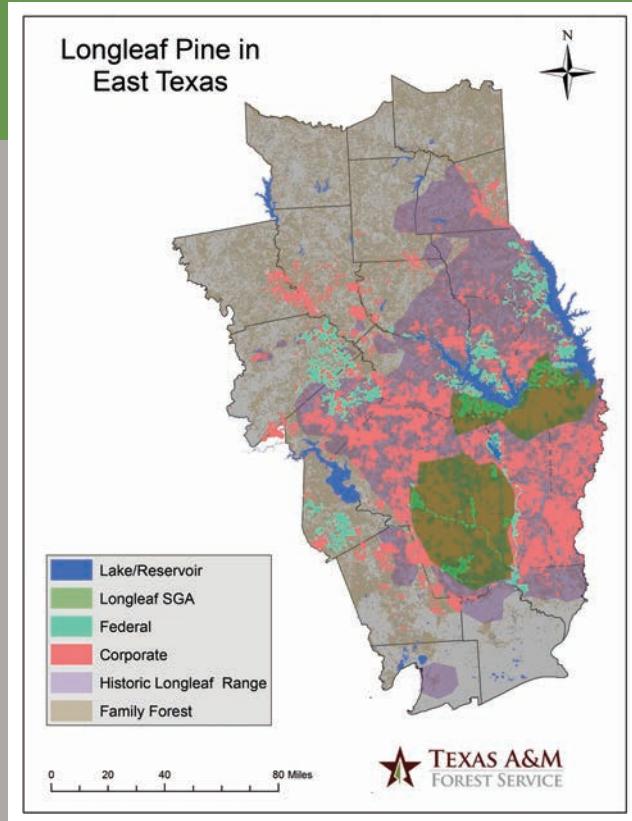
PRODUCT – LONGLEAF ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Each year brings new challenges and new accomplishments, but the TLIT continues to grow and improve. 2020 brought the greatest interest in cost-share funding the team has ever seen. Thanks to the creative use of digital resources and active promotion by members and partners, the TLIT leveraged over \$250,000 of cost-share funds into longleaf projects on more than 6,000 acres, resulting in a total longleaf restoration and enhancement value of over half a million dollars in 2020 alone!

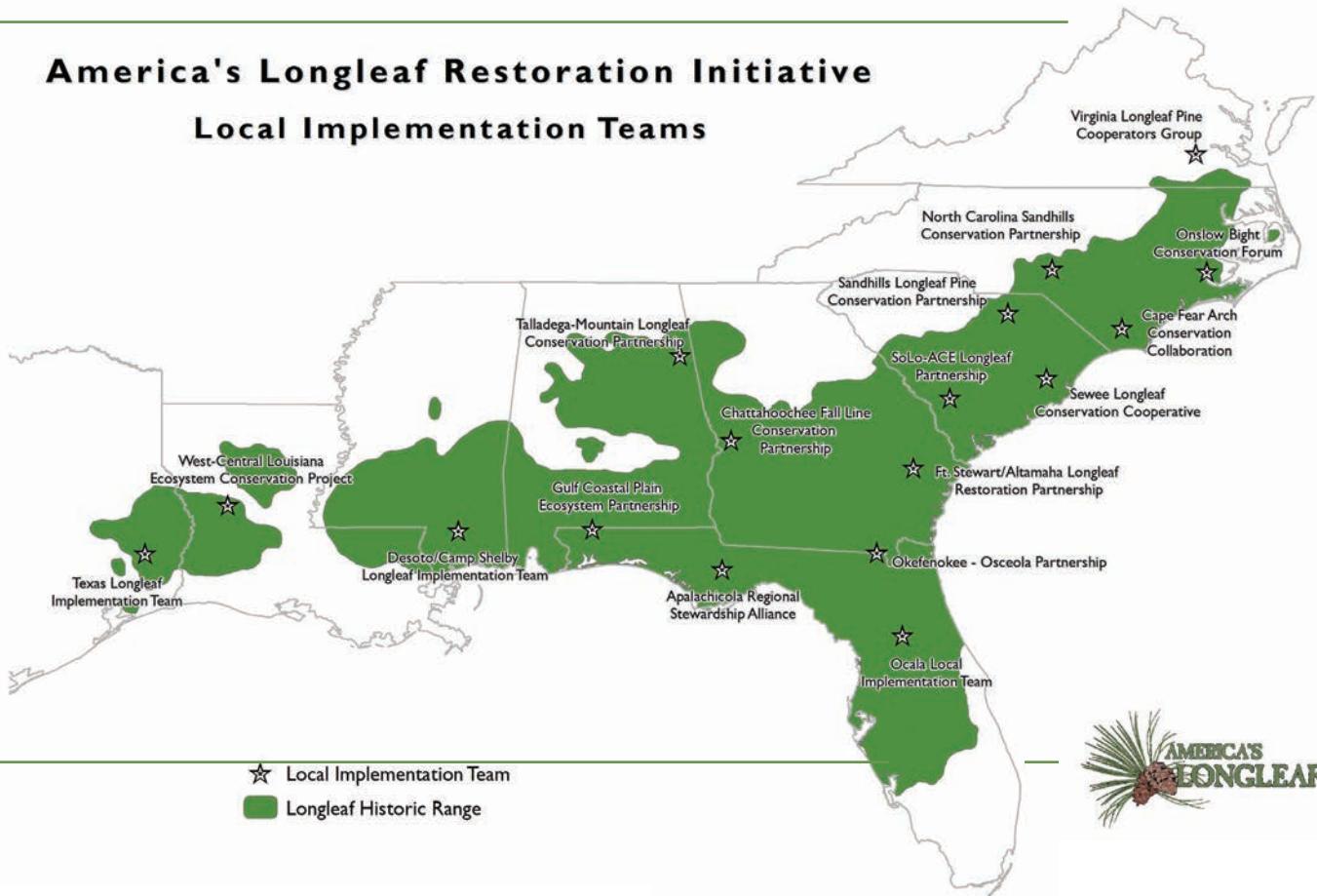
As the team looks to the future, they anticipate continued success across the range. Relationships with TIMOs and REITs will continue to be critical components of success and will take priority in the development of future outreach and communications efforts. Additionally, the TLIT expects continued growth of restoration efforts in the NIPF sector and will continue to provide field days and participate in partner-driven outreach and education efforts to promote wildlife-friendly forests, prescribed fire, conversion through silviculture, and other beneficial management practices.

LAND OWNERSHIP MAP

Texas timberland is primarily privately owned, and corporate ownership represents a large majority of that land base. This creates unique challenges for longleaf restoration, but the TLIT has benefited from strong relationships with several TIMOs/REITs in the region, leading to the development of successful outreach strategies and significant impact on the industry landscape.



America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative Local Implementation Teams



ARSA Land Management Continues

By Brian Pelc, *The Nature Conservancy*



Praying mantis takes an upside-down view of Apalachicola National Forest wet prairie near Sumatra.

Photo by Brian Pelc.

The spirit of a typical, in-person semi-annual membership meeting was preserved when the Partners from Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance (ARSA) convened for the first time in a virtual setting. Our agenda included a conservation property spotlight, a professional presentation on cooperative species monitoring, round-robin updates, and a brief but wildly amateur video montage of nature from across the LIT. Even with the necessary COVID-19 restrictions, much of the important work in the field has proceeded with relative normalcy. Nearly all partners are planning for site prep, reforestation, and burning on schedule.

Significant projects receiving LIT funded seedlings or labor include: Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, FWC), Tate's Hell State Forest (Florida Forest Service), and Econfina Wildlife Management Area (FWC/Northwest Florida Water Management District). Aucilla Wildlife Management Area (FWC) will be receiving groundcover seed mix from Apalachicola National Forest flatwoods, while Torreya State Park and others will be receiving sandhill seed mix. Reports from across the LIT of outstanding fall wildflower displays were also an important signpost of the terrific fire management the partners have maintained under COVID conditions...way to go, Team!

Rx Fire Initiative Underway to Assist Private Landowners

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



RT Lumpkin, Georgia Forestry Commission, reviews the West Central Georgia Rx Fire Initiative with a Marion County landowner.
Photo by Georgia Forestry Commission.

The West Central Georgia Rx Fire Initiative is a program focused on assisting private landowners with prescribed fire (Rx fire) across the Chattahoochee Fall Line region of Georgia. The Initiative is guided by the Chattahoochee Fall Line Rx Fire Co-Op led by the Georgia Forestry Commission. Funding comes from multiple partners, including The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, American Forest Foundation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources Bobwhite Quail Initiative, and a Landscape Scale Restoration grant, to support both technical and financial assistance to assist landowners with prescribed fire activities. A new partnership with The Longleaf Alliance is slated to bring additional prescribed fire resources to the region as well.

In its first year, the Initiative funded 72 landowners across 7 counties to successfully burn 6,571 acres. Sign-up is currently underway for this year's program. Landowners utilize an on-line application process that determines their eligibility for the Initiative. Eligible projects are inspected pre and post-burn and then mapped. Landowners are paid after the prescribed burn has been completed. The application process is also designed to connect landowners who don't qualify for this program with alternate resources that support their land management goals. Interest in the Initiative is strong, and we look forward to continuing to expand the use of this keystone management practice on private lands across our region!

For more information on the Rx Fire Co-Op visit: www.gatrees.org/fire-prevention-suppression/cflrxfirecoop.

Burning at Broxton Rocks Preserve

By Ani Marty, Georgia Department of Natural Resources



Prescribed fire at Broxton Rocks. Photo by Ani Marty.

I first burned at Broxton Rocks when I was a Student Conservation Association intern at Moody Forest in 2017. It's a preserve maintained by The Nature Conservancy in Southeast Georgia outside the town of Broxton. The longleaf pine savanna at Broxton Rocks is a sight to behold and has many rare and endangered species. It is known for the Altamaha Grit, a layer of sandstone that has been exposed over time. There's an old ecological history there that generation after generation has taken part in to create the preserve of today.

Burning at the Rocks is different from the other properties I burned with Georgia DNR. In fact, burning there for the first time inspired me to continue working with fire. The next couple of fire seasons were mostly spent working in areas that had been fire suppressed for decades — fighting with a drip torch and a tool through the unforgiving southern rough to give a chance to bring back the longleaf pine ecosystem. Sites I had burned in years past began to change as I burned them a second time. Where there was a single clump of wiregrass overrun with gallberry, there was now a patch growing, ready to carry more fire. With every burn, there is a rebirth and a slow rebuild, a flicker of a recovering ecosystem.

Now, after several burning seasons under my belt, we get called back to burn a place that doesn't need us to persuade the flames to spread. In the heat of early June, we just needed to drag a line of fire along Braxton Rock's longleaf savanna. Working with The Nature Conservancy and The Orianne Society, I got to light and then sit back to watch the longleaf pine savanna take control. Fire danced along the grit, flitting from the pine litter to the wiregrass. The black left behind was sharp and clean, ready for the next cycle of growth. Broxton Rocks stands as a reminder of what once was and what a little fire can do.

Chinese Tallow Trees Treated Along Portion of Yellow River in Florida, Thanks to Florida State Wildlife Grant

By Vernon Compton, The Longleaf Alliance



Left: Herbicide stump treatment of Chinese tallow tree along Yellow River. Right: Kaiden Spurlock cutting a Chinese tallow tree in the lower Yellow River. Photos by Vernon Compton.



Chinese tallow trees are a serious threat in the longleaf range because of its ability to invade high quality, undisturbed forests. It is "capable of spreading into both disturbed and undisturbed environments and can alter the composition of both terrestrial and wetland forest communities. It causes large-scale ecosystem modification by replacing native vegetation and changing community structure and can also modify soil conditions by producing tannins and by increasing rates of eutrophication. Seeds are spread by birds and may also float for great distances." (Bogler and Batcher, 2000). As with all prolific invaders, the key to successful control is to prevent new infestations or to control the older ones as soon as possible. If controlled during the early stages of invasion, the potential for successful management is high.

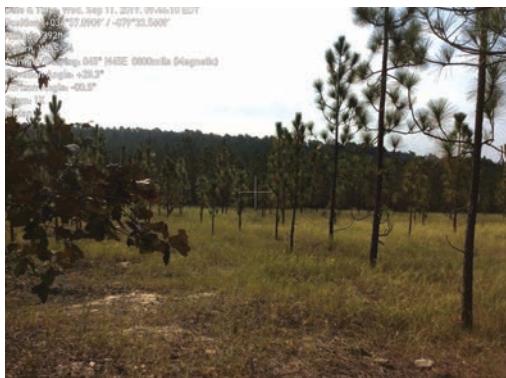
Recognizing the threat posed by the Chinese tallow tree, the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership

(GCPEP) identified control of this and other invasive species as a high priority. Thanks to a State Wildlife Grant and support from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Longleaf Alliance staff have located and treated over 7,000 Chinese tallow trees within the Florida portion of the Yellow River watershed, with more work needed for successful control in the GCPEP landscape.

Reference: Bogler, D. T. and M. S. Batcher. 2000. TNC Element Stewardship Abstract. 11 p.

4,000 Acres Conserved to Establish Priority Longleaf Corridors in North Carolina

By Hervey McIver, *The Nature Conservancy*



Jordan Timber tract longleaf. Photo courtesy of Hervey McIver.

Protecting, restoring, and managing the longleaf pine ecosystems are the objectives of North Carolina's three Longleaf Local Implementation Teams (LITs) – the Cape Fear Arch, Onslow Bight, and Sandhills. The partners of these LITs cooperate in developing conservation plans to guide the allocation of limited resources to protect new lands. High-quality longleaf, as well as lands that connect and buffer our existing network of conservation lands, are prioritized. In 2020 North Carolina LIT partners added over 4,000 acres of new and diverse habitat to this network through fee and conservation easement purchases.

For over twenty years, the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership has worked to connect widespread blocks of longleaf owned by the Army, the state of North Carolina, and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to build a resilient population of red-cockaded woodpeckers. In May, with TNC's purchase of the 2,021-acre Jordan Timber tract, three large blocks of state lands were permanently connected. The property, acquired with Army funds, will be transferred to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission with plans to introduce controlled burning and restore longleaf habitat where needed.

In the Onslow Bight landscape, lands around the Croatan National Forest are under threat from development as more people want to be near the coast. Using mitigation funds from a highway expansion project impacting a portion of the Croatan, the NC Coastal Land Trust acquired two tracts of longleaf land totaling 918 acres that may someday be added to the National Forest. These properties add more longleaf and important wetlands and protect future burning on significant sites within the Croatan from future development.

SoloACE Partnership Continues to Grow

By Bobby Franklin and Lisa Lord, *The Longleaf Alliance*



Matt Lerow, SCDNR RCW Biologist and Aaron Chavous, Aiken State Park Manager prepare to release RCWs. Photo by Lisa Lord.

The first week of November wrapped up another round of red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) translocations. Since 2016, 61 RCWs have been translocated from the Francis Marion National Forest to eight properties in the South Lowcountry – ACE Basin (SoLoACE) landscape through a series of grants funded by NFWF. The recovery efforts in Aiken County, South Carolina, have exceeded expectations. There are now eight active clusters at Hitchcock Woods, where RCWs were first introduced in 2016. Several years ago, recruitment clusters were installed at Aiken State Park and Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve (AGTHP). All available clusters are now full at AGTHP after being discovered by dispersing birds. South Carolina State Parks has been diligently prescribed burning Aiken State Park for over a decade to improve the habitat. An unbanded pair showed up at Aiken State Park in the spring of 2020 and went on to successfully fledge two young. The translocation team then brought two additional pairs of birds to Aiken State Park this November. A pair of RCWs was also provided to Sumter National Forest to assist with their RCW recovery efforts. Thank you to the 9 trappers and 15 assistants that helped with this year's moves.

The SoLoACE Longleaf Partnership also continues to work with landowners, both in-person and virtually, assisting with their longleaf pine restoration and management goals. This fall, technical assistance was provided to more than 80 landowners and managers. Virtual outreach has increased and is being offered at various scales from small landowner meetings to the first-ever virtual South Carolina Prescribed Fire Council meeting, which was attended by 165 people on September 9th.

South Carolina Sandhills Longleaf Partnership Welcomes New Member

By Susan Griggs, Natural Resources Conservation Service



Daniel Griffin, Chesterfield County's new NRCS District Conservationist. Photo by Susan Griggs.

The South Carolina Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership (SLPCP) welcomes new NRCS District Conservationist Daniel Griffin to the Chesterfield office. Daniel is a 2004 graduate of Clemson University and a Chesterfield County native. He most recently served as District Conservationist in Lee County, SC. "I'm excited to be back home working with landowners I've known all my life," Griffin said. "I'm super hyped about what is going on here with longleaf pine restoration through the Partnership. I still have a lot to learn about this ecosystem, but the experience of the Partnership members around me is something I can draw on every day."

Daniel had a chance to get his feet in the fire quickly. The Chesterfield Field Office recently completed obligations to 100 landowners for financial assistance with the establishment of 3350 acres of new longleaf, as well as improvements of another 1050 acres through release from overstory and prescribed fire. Funding sources for these obligations were primarily from the USDA EQIP program but also utilized funding from National Fish and Wildlife (NFWF) grants and the USFWS Partners for Wildlife. "This wouldn't be possible without the efforts of the SLPCP team," said Griffin. "The outreach efforts by the Partnership, using their field data, has reached many people who were not aware of the assistance available to private landowners. We expect to see continued growth in landowner interest in longleaf as we provide educational opportunities and promote the advantages of the longleaf forest."

National Wild Turkey Federation Awarded Grant to Restore Longleaf Pine in West-Central Louisiana

By Tom Sullivan, National Wild Turkey Federation



Regeneration after prescribed fire in Allen Parish, LA. Photo courtesy of NWTF.

The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) was awarded a \$300,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Longleaf Stewardship Fund to advance longleaf restoration in the Fort Polk/Kisatchie National Forest Significant Geographic Area (SGA). Additional non-federal matching funds of over \$350,000 from NWTF and other partners will also be applied to the project. The project is a part of the Forestland Stewards Initiative formed by International Paper and NFWF to identify, restore and protect landscapes in three priority regions in the southern United States, one of which is the Piney Woods of Texas and Louisiana.

This grant will establish and enhance 5,700 acres of longleaf pine in a six-parish West-Central Louisiana Ecosystem Partnership Conservation Area anchored by the Fort Polk/Kisatchie National Forest SGA. This project will provide financial assistance to plant longleaf and enhance existing habitat with prescribed fire, as well as support landowner outreach and technical assistance through field days and development of forest management plans. Site visits by forestry and wildlife professionals will support and encourage

longleaf restoration and management. Efforts will include verified, updated reporting and support the mission of Fort Polk by broadening the ecological base of the longleaf pine ecosystem surrounding the installation.

Project partners include The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Department of Defense-Ft. Polk U.S. Army, U.S. Forest Service Kisatchie National Forest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, International Forest Company (IFCO), forestry consultants, and timber companies.

O2 Landowner Receives National Private Lands Fish & Wildlife Stewardship Award

By Rebecca Shelton, *The Nature Conservancy*



Doug and Teresa Moore, courtesy of Christopher M. Demers

known to frequent the property, and Mr. Moore strives to guide his management decisions to their benefit. In addition to active management of wildlife, Mr. Moore is involved with promoting longleaf restoration and protecting several endangered plant species, including Chapman's fringed orchid, which has benefited through his use of prescribed fire on the landscape.

An O2 partner, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has worked closely with Moore over the years as part of the agency's Landowner Assistance Program (MyFWC.com/LAP). "Mr. Moore works passionately to bring fellow landowners together by hosting multiple workshops and field tours that cover topics such as prescribed fire, food plots, forest health and habitat management," said Ginger Morgan, the program's North Florida regional coordinator. "He also serves as a strong community mentor moving his local landowner-led conservation initiative forward through his work with the North Florida Prescribed Burn Association and the Baker County Landowner Group." In addition, Mr. Moore promotes safe wildland fire by serving with Fire-Wise Communities after the 2007 Bugaboo Wildfire that consumed over 560,000 acres in Florida and Georgia.

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) recently recognized Mr. Moore and the South Prong Plantation with the 2020 National Private Lands Fish & Wildlife Stewardship Award. Each year the AFWA Awards Committee recognizes an individual or family-run farm, ranch or forest land that has incorporated proactive conservation practices and exhibits outstanding stewardship of fish and wildlife resources. Upon receiving his award, Moore said, "I am honored to receive this national award. I thank all the forest and wildlife agencies, friends and family that made it happen. It has always been a passion of mine to own a large timber property that I could manage, share and introduce others to learning more about our great outdoors. I am living my dream."

Mr. Moore's attention to the needs of the forest and its natural inhabitants has paid significant dividends in the overall quality of the land and recreation, serving as a model land steward for the O2 area.

The Okefenokee and Osceola Local Implementation Team (O2 LIT) area enjoyed a very productive 2020 summer season of partner outreach, offsite timber sale awards, understory restoration projects, and planning for the upcoming planting season. This quarter, we would like to focus on and thank one of our most active and contributing landowners – Mr. Doug Moore of the South Prong Plantation.

The South Prong Plantation is a 5,895-acre working, multi-use timberland operation that provides wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, and a living classroom to teach others how to be better land stewards. The property, located in North Florida (Baker County), is actively managed by Mr. Moore and his wife Teresa, along with assistance from family, neighbors, and friends. White-tailed deer, fox squirrel, wild turkey, Northern bobwhite quail, and Florida black bear are



**NOT ALL SEEDLINGS
ARE CREATED EQUAL.**

VISIT US ONLINE

INTERNATIONALFOREST.CO/LONGLEAF

TheWoodYard.com

Specialty Lumber

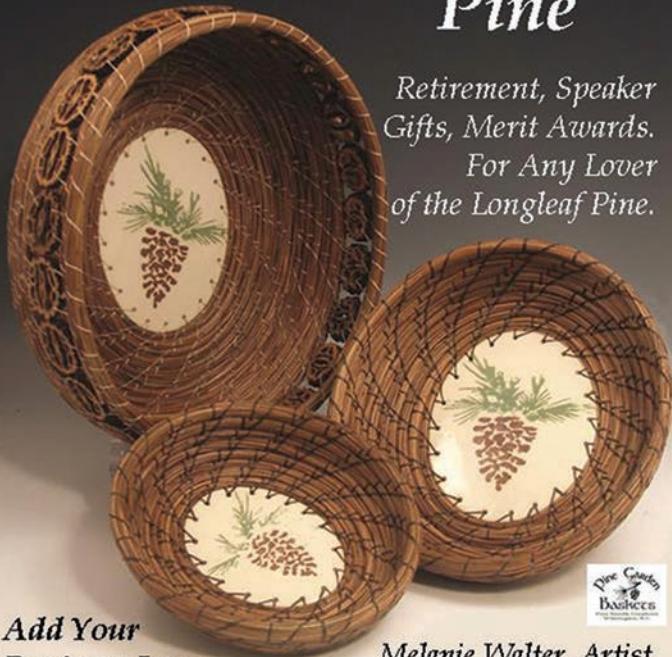
We are a friendly hardwood and specialty lumber store that caters to the furniture and cabinet builder, the home hobbyist and craftsman.

If you can't make it to the store,
don't worry, we ship!



122 Main Street | Concord, GA 30206
770-468-8588 | thewoodyard.com

Gifting the Longleaf Pine



Add Your
Business Logo,
or Forest Service
Shield

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



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



Since 2010, the Fire in the Pines Festival has shared the “good fire” message with the Wilmington, NC community with fun-filled activities.



By Michelle Ly, The Nature Conservancy

The Virtual Fire in the Pines Festival – October 2-10, 2020

Without fire, longleaf pine ecosystems wouldn't survive or thrive. Neither would the incredible plants and animals that call this landscape their home. Fire festivals are a great way to engage entire communities in the benefits of prescribed fire. In Wilmington, North Carolina, the Fire in the Pines Festival has shared this message since 2010. Originally known as the Fire in the Lakes in the town of Boiling Spring Lakes, the festival was created for the community, by the community. The first festival was a successful, but small, gathering around 300 people. In 2014, the festival moved to Halyburton Park in the heart of Wilmington and became Fire in the Pines. That year the attendance grew to 3,000 and has been growing ever since!

Fire in the Pines (FIP) is one of Wilmington's most successful educational festivals. As many as 45 local organizations

exhibit booths with hands-on activities to engage attendees in the natural resources related to longleaf pine and fire. Festival-goers learn while enjoying live music, watching performers and jugglers, going on hayrides, and observing a live burn. The most important component of FIP is that it is entirely free. There is no vending (besides food trucks). This allows educational outreach to reach folks of all socioeconomic backgrounds without any monetary limitations.

Launching FIP virtually was a challenge but necessary to keep controlled burning a part of the virtual education platform amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. A virtual FIP would not compare to our in-person festival but instead would take a new identity of its own. This was also an exciting opportunity to expand our outreach outside of Wilmington to the whole longleaf range – from Virginia to Texas.

Many longleaf and prescribed fire advocates understand the importance of increasing public understanding of conservation and management. Still, we often lack the tools to engage one of our most captive audiences — KIDS! “While you’re in the grass stage” aims to inspire your inner educator by highlighting unique educational resources and activities from educators across the longleaf range.



Working with a professional film company was evident in the quality of the virtual festival videos. Photo by Brian Parr.



Engaging kids virtually or in-person remains the top priority of the Fire in the Pines Festival. Photo by Brian Parr.

We worked with Hendy Street Produxions to produce a mini video series focusing on various components of the longleaf pine ecosystem with a grand finale video tying it all together. Investing in these videos was investing in a resource that could be shared in many different ways well into the future.

To engage folks alongside our video series, a scavenger hunt was created using iNaturalist. The scavenger hunt spanned across three counties highlighting natural areas where folks could visit and observe natural longleaf systems. One participant said, "I had a great time in our local parks. I had never

looked much at our native plants. I have lived here for 25 years and had never been to Carolina Beach State Park. I spent several hours hiking there. Thanks for the whole experience. It was very educational."

Although we miss seeing our friends in person at Fire in the Pines Festival, our virtual festival was a success. The FIP Facebook page and videos continue to receive engagement online. We hope our videos can serve as an educational resource for many others to spread the positive benefits of controlled burning in longleaf. Visit fireinthepines.org for more information!

NORTH AMERICA'S LEADING DEVELOPER AND SUPPLIER OF FOREST CARBON OFFSETS.

Talk with us to learn more about how your land can generate carbon revenue. Contact Dylan Jenkins, ACF CF, at 570.321.9090.

FiniteCarbon

wwwFINITECARBON.COM

11

48

2.9M

67M

\$750M

FORESTERS

FOREST OFFSET PROJECTS

ACRES

FOREST OFFSETS ISSUED

TOTAL PROJECT REVENUE



GreenAssets®

A Leading Forest Carbon Offset Developer

"Landowners Working with Landowners"

www.green-assets.com

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

Available Coverages:

Hunt Lease Liability Insurance
Timberland Liability
Tractors, ATV's & Implements
and much more....



THE
CONSERVATION FUND

We make conservation work for America.

conservationfund.org



Since 1985, we have protected over 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—often to longleaf pine—and sustainably manage these lands as working forests until they are permanently protected under conservation easements.

[Get to know us!](#)



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

LONGLEAF LITERATURE



The extraordinary diversity of longleaf ecosystems comes from the abundant plant life found in the understory, which in turn supports a diverse wildlife community. While many of us celebrate this diversity, we might not always know what we are seeing. To assist with your botanical observations, we have compiled our favorite plant identification guides, focusing on herbaceous plants. Of course, these guides are not a substitute for detailed taxonomic plant keys but are valuable, often visual, resources for common species. For those seeking a comprehensive flora, Alan Weakley's *Flora of the Southeastern United States* (2020) is available online from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Herbarium (ncbg.unc.edu/research/unc-herbarium/floras). You can even request regional and state compilations.

Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses

by James H. Miller & Karl V. Miller; University of Georgia Press; Revised ed. edition (2005)

This guide to common and unique plants found in forests of the Southeast thoroughly covers 330 species of forbs (herbaceous plants), grasses, vines, and shrubs, with a special emphasis

on the plants' role in wildlife sustenance. Of note: Filled with colorful photos and the practical importance of the plants.

East Gulf Coastal Plain Wildflowers: A Field Guide to the Wildflowers of the East Gulf Coastal Plain, Including Southwest Georgia, Northwest Florida, Southern Alabama, Southern Mississippi, and parts of Southeastern Louisiana

by Gil Nelson; A Falcon Guide; The Globe Pequot Press 1st edition (2005)

Uses vivid color photos and text featuring detailed descriptions and arranged-by-color photos of more than 300 plants, plus an introduction to the area's habitats and ecology, glossary of botanical terms, a primer on plant characteristics, with a water-resistant cover and extra durable binding. Of note: Descriptions accompanied by a "Comments" section giving lore about the plant, its uses, or its name.

Field Guide to Common Legume Species of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

by Heather Norden & Katherine Kirkman
Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center

Field and Restoration Guide to Common Native Warm-Season Grasses of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

by Melanie Kaeser & Katherine Kirkman
Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center

These two publications are your passports to recognizing the longleaf understory. Digital downloads are available at www.jonesctr.org > Products > Outreach Publications.

A Field Guide to Wildflowers of the Sandhills Region: North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia

by Bruce A. Sorrie; University of North Carolina Press;
Illustrated edition (2011)

Featuring over 600 wildflowers, flowering shrubs, and vines, this user-friendly field guide is the first to focus on the rare, fragile lands and species of the Sandhills region of the Carolinas and Georgia. Arranged by habitat, with color tabs for easy browsing of the nine different natural communities. The opening section includes an introduction to the Sandhills region's geology, soil types, and special relationship to fire ecology; an overview of rare species, a glossary and key to flower and leaf structures; and a listing of gardens, preserves, and parklands in the Sandhills region and nearby where wildflowers can be seen and appreciated.

*Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Georgia and Surrounding States.*

by Linda G. Chafin, Illustrated by Hugh Nourse & Carol Nourse; University of Georgia Press (2016)

The first field guide devoted exclusively to Georgia's wildflowers, while also including a large number of plants found in neighboring states, the scientific information is organized in a clear, logical, and accessible way. The guide includes non-technical species descriptions and comparisons with similar plants, information on the habitats and natural communities that support Georgia's wildflowers, and suggestions for the best places and times to see wildflowers. It also features descriptions of the wildflowers found in forests, woodlands, and wetlands, as well as those growing along roadsides that are often dismissed as "weeds." A set of 750 thumbnail photographs to identify by flower color and descriptions for 770 of the most common wildflowers found in Georgia and throughout most of the Southeast, as well as additional information for 530 "similar to" species, and more.

*Wildflowers of the Atlantic Southeast
(A Timber Press Field Guide)*

by Laura Cotterman, Damon Waitt, & Alan Weakley;
Timber Press (2019)

An authoritative trail-side reference, this comprehensive guide describes and illustrates more than 1,200 species, including perennials and annuals, both native and naturalized non-native. More than 1,300 superb color photographs, 1,200 range maps, and a user-friendly organization by color and other observable traits make identification easy.

This plant guide list is not exhaustive, and we welcome your suggestions. The Groundcover Working Group identified the need for a readily accessible list of plant identification resources during their meeting at the Biennial Longleaf Conference in October. We are actively compiling this list to be available on longleafalliance.org.

LONGLEAF *Art* SPOTLIGHT

HAPPY LITTLE PIXELS

The virtual format of the 13th Biennial Conference in October 2020 allowed us to reimagine traditional conference content while also exploring novel offerings. From Longleaf Team Trivia to the LIT Spooktacular, we found ways to have fun and socialize. We even showed off our digital creativity in the Happy Trees Pixel Art Zoom Social.

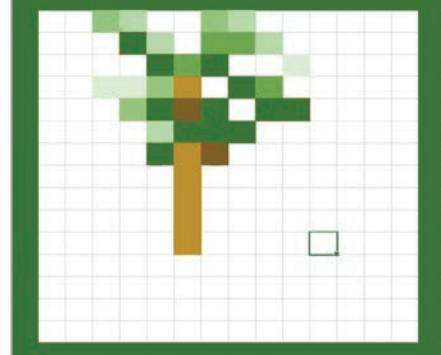
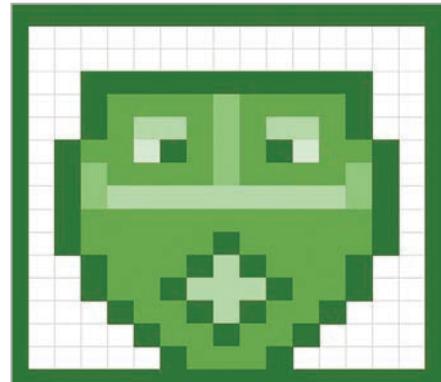
What is pixel art?

In digital imaging, a pixel is the smallest element of a picture represented on the screen. Simply put, pixel art is a form of digital art where a larger image is created out of smaller elements or pixels. As use and accessibility of computers and video games surged in the 1970s and 1980s,

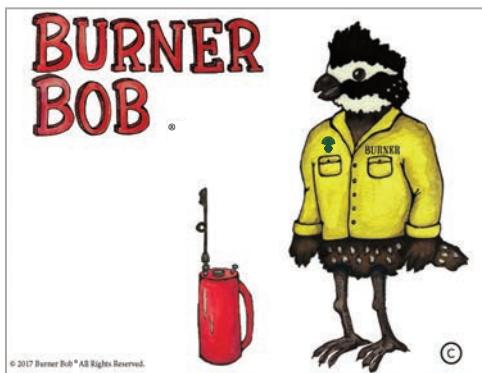
digital art, using pixels, gained relevance. While a digital medium, there are similarities to other artistic forms like mosaics, cross stitching, and quilting.

Longleaf inspired pixel art

Many digital tools exist to create pixel art, but our Zoom artists exercised their creativeness while also challenging their spreadsheet skills. We used conditional formatting tools in Microsoft Excel to design images with colored-coded numbers. Each spreadsheet cell became a pixel. Similar approaches can be implemented using Google Sheets or even using graph paper.



Left: Longleaf Sky. Original photo by Brian Schumann, The Longleaf Alliance. Right: Pixel art version by Jennifer Schafer, Winthrop University.



Burner Bob® gets a pixel art makeover.

Design-your-own "longleaf inspired" art: FROG by Elizabeth Shadle, The Longleaf Alliance. TREE by Rosalind Rowe, Florida Park Service.



RMS

Creating Forest Value Since 1950

With over \$4.3* billion in assets under management, Resource Management Service, LLC (RMS) is one of the world's leading providers of forest investment management services. We manage the forests entrusted to our care using advanced forestry and sustainable management practices to optimize their biological, financial and social value. Founded and managed by forestry professionals and owned by its employees,

RMS is headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama (USA) with offices across the US South and Brazil.

*As of 12/31/2010



resourcemgt.com

The Future in Pine Propagation

Long-Life 5.25" deep container
designed specifically for
Loblolly, Slash & Longleaf



- Easy to pull cell design & no root circling
- Numerous, vigorous air-pruned roots
- Intact root system at shipping
- High survival rate when transplanted into the field



PROUD TO SUPPORT
THE LONGLEAF ALLIANCE!

proptek.com sales@proptek.com (800) 487 1381

Containerized Pine Tree Seedlings



We are an independently owned and operated nursery in Rowland, NC, conveniently located on the I-95 corridor. Our nursery operations began in 2000, and we continue to utilize industry standards, installing center pivot irrigation, increasing cooler storage, and supplying multiple plug sizes (3.5", 5", 6"). With over 17 years of experience we look forward to serving the seeding needs of landowners, forestry professionals, and other agencies.

Loblolly from **\$135** & Longleaf from **\$195**

Per 1,000 Seedlings

Ask About Free Shipping On Large Orders

Bodenhamer
Farms &
Nursery



Early Bird
Discounts
Save Thru:
June - 25%
July - 20%
August - 15%
September - 10%
October - 5%
Call For Details!

Office: 910-422-8118 Fax: 910-422-9793
info@bodenhamerfarms.com & www.bodenhamerfarms.com



Longleaf Destinations

*By Kirsten Weir and
The Nature Conservancy Staff*

Longleaf Pine Thrives at The Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve

If you imagine a time before the theme parks of the Orlando area, you conjure images of the incredible natural landscapes and iconic wildlife of Old Florida, with its expansive longleaf pine forests and vast, essential wetlands. Bring yourself back to the present, and you'll find a place like this thrives today—The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Disney Wilderness Preserve.

The 11,500-acre property, located near Kissimmee, is owned, protected, and managed by The Nature Conservancy. In 1992, following a recommendation from Audubon Florida to protect the initial 8,500-acre ranchland from proposed construction of housing subdivisions, TNC worked with the Walt Disney Company and the state of Florida to create a large-scale nature preserve to offset wetland impacts of the development at Walt Disney World. And so, Disney Wilderness Preserve

was born, restoring historic wetlands across a large landscape, and creating a haven for more than 1,000 species of plants and animals. Today, the Preserve serves as a testament to how big-picture thinking can create more resilient landscapes.

The original cattle ranch had been in operation since the 1940s. Its natural wetlands had been significantly degraded by decades of grazing and creating drainage ditches that altered the water's natural flow. The Walt Disney Company provided funding for restoration and monitoring, and in 1995, the greater Orlando Aviation Authority added an adjacent 3,000 acres to mitigate its airport expansion.

In the years that followed, TNC restored 3,500 acres of wetlands, returning the landscape to its natural state. Nearly half of the Disney Wilderness Preserve is made up of longleaf pine



A. Entrance to the Disney Wilderness Preserve. Photo by Roberto Gonzales. B. Wildflowers at DWP. Photo by Zachary Prusak. C. Sandhill Cranes at DWP. Photo by Roberto Gonzales.

flatwoods, with cypress and hardwood swamps, freshwater marsh, oak hammocks, and scrub rounding out the classic Old Florida landscape. Repairing these ecosystems required years of hands-on work such as filling in ditches to restore the natural water flow, removing invasive species, converting pastures back to native groundcover, and beginning a program of prescribed burns to restore the health and diversity of the longleaf forest.

The Walt Disney Company transferred ownership of the Preserve to TNC in 2012 – once the mitigation project was successfully completed – and provided an endowment for the property's continued management.

The species-rich longleaf pine ecosystem was once a dominant habitat in Florida, originally occurring in about 50% of

the state. Development throughout Florida reduced this drastically, and suppressing the natural fire cycle led to a reduction in the number of plants and animals that depend upon this natural process to thrive. The presence of such a large amount of longleaf pine on the Preserve offered TNC an opportunity to utilize fire management techniques to restore and showcase what Central Florida's landscape looked like centuries ago.

The Nature Conservancy's staff began implementing small burns since the landscape hadn't seen fire in quite some time, causing the mid-story vegetation to increase. Freed by the flames, the property's remaining longleaf habitat was able to recover and expand, and grasses and other groundcover to rebound. With the cycle of fire restored, managers adopted a high-frequency/low-intensity regime, with annual burns across

about a third of the Preserve. These regular prescribed burns continue to be possible, in part, because of conservation partnerships with other landowners in the region, who support and learn from one another's efforts. Thanks to these joint efforts, Disney Wilderness Preserve is part of a large mosaic of natural landscapes across Central Florida that includes longleaf pine and other essential habitats.

Just as fire is critical to this ecosystem, water is equally essential. As ditches were filled in, the wetlands rebounded quickly to fill their historic footprints and fulfill their broader role. The Preserve sits at the headwaters of the Everglades. Its wetlands soak up rainwater, filter nutrients, and help replenish groundwater as it seeps slowly back into the soil.

The highlight of this system is peaceful Lake Russell. Surrounded by towering cypress, it is the most-visited spot. Unlike most Florida lakes, Lake Russell is devoid of human development, with no homes dotting the shoreline. When Hurricane Irma passed through in 2017, the lake absorbed the extra rainfall, swelling its bank to extend 60 or 70 feet past its typical lake edge. Over the next two weeks, it released that water slowly back into the streams—a textbook example of a lake functioning the way nature designed. Visitors hiking the Red Wilderness Trail to Lake Russell often hear the hoots of the barred owl and might spot wood storks—North America's only native stork—roosting in a large rookery in trees along the shore.

Hiking deeper into the Preserve, visitors might see other feathered residents, including Bachman's Sparrow, the iconic Florida scrub-jay, and the recently reintroduced red-cockaded woodpecker. Listed as endangered in 1970, the woodpeckers hovered on the brink of extinction until conservation efforts helped re-establish breeding pairs in their historic range. In 2007, following the successful restoration of the longleaf forest, the Preserve was invited by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to join the red-cockaded woodpecker translocation program. Ten pairs of woodpeckers now reside at Disney Wilderness Preserve—a sizeable population for birds that require large territories to thrive.

Birdwatchers looking skyward might catch sight of a tower nestled in the landscape, which collects environmental data as part of the National Ecological Observatory Network. It's a symbol of the Preserve's commitment to advancing conservation knowledge. Now that the property has been restored, managers are stepping up efforts to find new ways to learn and connect. More than a dozen environmental research projects are active inside the Preserve. The landscape serves as a model for how state-of-the-art conservation management can create healthy, resilient landscapes where both people and wildlife can thrive. TNC has plans to increase its commitment to advancing conservation knowledge and action through education, outreach, science, and stewardship at Disney Wilderness Preserve.



An all-female crew conducted a controlled burn at DWP in March 2019 to inspire more women in fire work.
Photo by Carlton Ward Jr.

Visitor Tips

The Disney Wilderness Preserve is located at 2700 Scrub Jay Trail in Kissimmee, less than an hour from the bustle of Orlando, and is a welcome respite from the area's theme parks for those seeking more natural pursuits. Entrance is free, but donations are welcome. There is parking onsite, and visitors should sign in at the welcome center. Picnic areas and restrooms are available. Pets, smoking, alcohol, and weapons are prohibited.

The Preserve is largely longleaf habitat, so be prepared to hike in open areas with a lot of sun. The best time to visit is October through May, when temperatures are milder and conditions are drier. Late September to early November is peak wildflower season, with iconic species such as blazing star, goldenrod, lopsided Indiangrass, and numerous other beautiful flowers that bloom in areas that have been recently burned. Trails may flood during the summer rainy season, so call ahead to check conditions before you visit. Keep an eye out for sandhill cranes as you drive in.

The flat, open Red Trail forms a 2.5-mile loop with a detour that will take you to the shore of Lake Russell. It connects with the Yellow Trail, an additional 3.6 miles that heads deeper into the Preserve. To hike the Red and Yellow Trails combined, plan on about three hours.

For information, call 407-935-0002 or email visitdwp@tnc.org.



A. Florida scrub jay. Photo by Hannah O'Malley.



B. Group buggy tour at DWP. Photo courtesy of Roberto Gonzales.

C. Frequently burned longleaf pine. Photo by Fran Perchick.



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

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



STEVE MILLER, Arborist and Bartlett Champion



My favorite thing about trees? How much time have you got?

Steve Miller is a Bartlett Tree Experts champion. He, like all on his team, is the best in the business. An expert who champions the trees, landscapes and property investments of the customers in his care. He leaves no detail unexplored and no question unanswered.

Contact us today at 877-BARTLETT | bartlett.com



**BARTLETT
TREE EXPERTS**

SCIENTIFIC TREE CARE SINCE 1907

EVERY TREE NEEDS A CHAMPION.

The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company

Julie Moore Honored with Illustris Palustris Award



*Julie Moore, 2020 Illustris Palustris Award recipient.
Photo by Barry New.*

land conservancy, chair of the Florida Fire Council, and as coordinator of The Nature Conservancy's Camp Shelby biological inventory in the longleaf forests of Mississippi. With the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Julie promoted safe harbor agreements for over 80 species, including the red-cockaded

The North Carolina Longleaf Coalition presented the 2020 Illustris Palustris Award to Julie H. Moore, former coordinator of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Safe Harbor Program, active member of the North Carolina Longleaf Coalition, and longtime supporter of The Longleaf Alliance.

Julie Moore has a record of over four decades dedicated to longleaf pine preservation and restoration. First in North Carolina while on the staff of the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, and later as founding director of the Tall Timbers Research Station's

woodpecker. She also worked with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to establish their Working Lands for Wildlife Program for at-risk species across the nation, including the gopher tortoise, by providing landowners financial assistance for beneficial management.

Recently retired from her long professional career, Julie Moore remains active and dedicated to all things longleaf. She continues to be a "longleaf advocate" and provides longleaf pine conservation and management education to landowners, foresters and land managers, native plant enthusiasts, and the general public.

Julie served on the LLA Board of Directors from 1996 through 2019. For The Alliance, she facilitated workshop sessions and panel discussions at all thirteen Biennial Longleaf Conferences, assisted with numerous longleaf publications, and presented at Longleaf Academies. Julie continues to promote longleaf ecosystems as a current board member of North Carolina's Plant Conservation Program. She is a Southern Conservation Partners cofounder and board officer, and an advocate for the NC Longleaf Honor Roll Initiative.

Julie Moore richly merits recognition for her lifelong dedication and "missionary work" on behalf of longleaf pine preservation and restoration in North Carolina and throughout its entire range.

Celebrating 100 Years Young



Vivian Beech with Burner Bob®. Photo by Randy Tate, The Longleaf Alliance.

One-hundred years ago, Vivian Williams Beech, a longtime friend and supporter of The Longleaf Alliance, was born in a hand-hewn longleaf pine cabin into a family that carved out a

living in the longleaf pine woods. The Williams family worked the woods by turpentineing, sawmilling, and running cattle. Vivian married Sid Beech, who also made a living in the longleaf forests, operating a pole mill and pulpwood dealership. Sid and Vivian worked together as stewards of the land, accumulating approximately 2,000 acres, with 1,320 acres of longleaf pine near Chatom, Alabama. The Beeches provided leadership and mentoring to hundreds of youngsters and neighbors dealing with conservation and education, including supporting, financially and with their time, the University of Mobile, 4-H, Boy Scouts of America, and numerous county, state, and national conservation and forestry organizations. To this day, Ms. Vivian continues to provide this leadership, commitment, and inspiration.

In September 2020, a special 100th birthday celebration for Ms. Vivian took place. Attending for The Alliance were Rhett and Kathy Johnson, Charlie Tarver, and Ad and Margaret Platt; Rhett and Ad spoke on behalf of her many friends within The Alliance. Most of the town of Chatom joined in her birthday parade along with friends of all ages from far and wide. Ms. Vivian thanks everyone for the cards, gifts, and well-wishes sent from those unable to attend. A memorable day for an extraordinary, loyal friend of longleaf.

Staff Transitions



Elizabeth Shadle, Wildlife Technician (left); AMBBIS Seasonal Restoration Team members. Photos by Charlie Abeles.

Elizabeth Shadle joined LLA's AMBBIS Team to assist with the reticulated flatwoods salamander. Elizabeth has a B.S. in Wildlife and Conservation Biology from the University of Rhode Island and a M.S. in Biology from Virginia Tech with a focus on amphibian conservation. Before graduate school, she spent time working at Archbold Biological Station, assisting with wetland restoration and monitoring amphibian and reptile species. Her previous experience also includes monitoring vegetation, invertebrates, and gopher tortoises. **Abe Huang**

and **Ronald Henderson** returned to the AMBBIS Seasonal Restoration Team for a second season, with **Natalie DePalma** and **Samantha Dillon** joining them as team members. Natalie graduated from Appalachian State University with a B.S. in Biology. Her previous salamander conservation work includes serving as a Frosted Flatwoods Salamander Field Technician with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and as a Plethodontid Salamander Field Technician with the Highlands Biological Station/Smithsonian Conservation Biological Institute. Samantha has an A.A. in Biology

from South Florida State College and a B.S. from the University of Central Florida. Her previous experience includes working as a David Tice Science Technician with The Nature Conservancy in Virginia, an Ecology Field Technician with Virginia Commonwealth University, and as a Natural Resource Specialist with AmeriCorps/Virginia Service and Conservation Corps. **Bob Wilken** returned as Fire Specialist. Bob leads fire training efforts for staff and partners while also assisting on prescribed burns.

**Sustainable
sourcing
sustains life.**

CHEP
A Brambles Company

CHEP contributes to a smarter, more sustainable supply chain through the share and reuse of pallets. 99.4% of the wood used to make CHEP pallets comes from lumber sources that are FSC or PEFC certified.

Since 2014, CHEP has proudly partnered with The Longleaf Alliance to help restore a rare ecosystem and protect endangered wildlife, while helping landowners grow longleaf pine trees that will ensure a sustainable supply of timber for decades.

For more information, visit chept.com,
email goblu@chept.com or call 800-243-7255.

By Lynnsey Basala, The Longleaf Alliance

A Silver Lining for our Silver Anniversary

Thank you to our members and conservation partners for helping us find a silver lining in a tumultuous year. Thank you for choosing to give your high-impact donations to The Longleaf Alliance through our wide array of multi-channel giving vehicles. Whether you donated \$10 or \$10,000 this year, your contribution does not go unnoticed.

The infographic below highlights your donor dollars in action over the past year. With the help of so many, we allocated 91% of income to programs and services, and are ready to carry this momentum into the New Year. Our hardworking staff continues its work in a safe and prudent manner, so please reach out if we can be of assistance. We aspire to expand on the achievements highlighted, move developing projects forward, meet new folks with an affinity for the longleaf ecosystem, find new and creative ways for supporters to contribute, and educate the urban populations about the majestic longleaf forest. There's much work to be done, and we can't wait to get started!

Let's toast to the positive year 2020 was for The Longleaf Alliance and to a year of infinite possibilities laid before us. May we collectively continue to grow an understanding of the longleaf pine ecosystem, improve and restore our beloved longleaf habitats.

We are forever grateful for your trust and efforts to strengthen The Longleaf Alliance's mission. This list contains those that contributed funds between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020. If you find that we have made an error, please don't hesitate to call our headquarters in Andalusia, Alabama or email us at office@longleafalliance.org so we can correct our records.

The Longleaf Alliance is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions may be tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.



Growing an Understanding of Longleaf Pine



Longleaf Pine Habitats Improved & Restored



2020 SUPPORTERS

Members of The Longleaf Alliance's Palustris Society

The Palustris Society was founded by members of The Longleaf Alliance Board of Directors to further the legacy that Rhett Johnson and Dean Gjerstad created to protect and restore longleaf forestlands. Since its inception in Fall 2015, twenty-three members representing seven states across the range have joined this elite group of dedicated conservationists who share a dream of restored and viable working longleaf forests by making a donation or pledge of \$10,000 or more to The Longleaf Alliance. Commitments range from annual contributions of \$10,000 or more to single commitments of \$10,000 to be paid over a period of up to five years.

\$50,000 Level

Barclay & Jane Perry McFadden
Charley & Susan Tarver*

\$25,000 Level

Rufus & Marianna Duncan

\$10,000 Level

Gary & Melda Boyd
Judd Brooke
David & Jane Kidd
Angus & Cary Lafaye
Amanda Haralson & Thomas A. Livesay
Julie Moore
Dr. William Owen III

Dr. Mickey & Stephanie Parker

William J. Payne
Richard & Rita Porterfield*

Mac Rhodes

Dr. Salem & Dianne Saloom and Family*

Audrey Thompson

Reese Jordan Thompson & Pam McIntyre Thompson

Beryl Trawick

Drs. George & Anne Tyson*

Marc & Penny Walley

Phillip & Debbie Woods*

The Sid & Vivian Beech Trust

*These donors have designated all or a portion of their contribution to The Longleaf Alliance Endowment.

Friends of The Longleaf Alliance

Beverly Abeles
Robert & Yvonne Abernethy
Russell Acree
John Adams
Walter Adams
Nell Allen
Zachary Amir
Eric & Sherri Amundson
Jada Anderson
David & Jan Angel
Quinton Anglin
Sara Anrrich
Cordelia Apicella
Austin Arabie
Evelyn Archer*
William Ardrey
Drew Arnold
John Arnold
Jon & Kathleen Arnold*

Jason Ayers
Charles Babb
Alan Bailey
Clifton Bailey
Margaret Bailey
W. Baker
Harold Balbach
Gary Baldwin
Julie Ballenger
Ed & Darleen Barbee
Anne Barkdoll
Jan Barlow
Gary Barnes
Elizabeth Barnhardt & Brent Wilson
Craig Barrow
Michael & Lynsey Basala
Michael Beale
Lynda Beam*

Allen Bearden
K. Beasley
Brady Beck
Gregg & Janice Beck
Scott Bedenbaugh
Travis Bedsole
Barbara Bell
John Bell
Mary Belmont
John Bembry
Liza Berdnik
Seth Bigelow
Roger Birkhead
Marshall Black
Mike Black
W. Blackledge
Don Boggs
Alex Boldog
Mark & Marsha Bollinger

Ryan Bollinger
Clay Bordley
George Boyd
James Bracewell
Jamie Bracewell
Nathan Bracewell
Daniel Bradley
Wade Bradley
Cyrus Brame
Heather Brasell
Allen Braswell
Jon Brater
Brenda Brickhouse
Gertrud Briggs
Richard Broadwell
Dale Brockway
Paul Brouha
Jake Browder
Karen Brown

SUPPORT THE ALLIANCE

Ted Brown	Thomas & Sarah Crate	Robbie Fisher	James Helmers
Randy Browning	Mac Creech	Robert Fisher	Jimmy & Cheryl Helton
James Buchan*	Elwin Cropp	Nicholas Flanders	Pete & Kathy Hendricks
Ellen Buchanan	Bill Culbreth	Earl Fleming	Frank Henley*
Terrelle Buckner	David Daigle	Wade Fletcher	Danielle Herman
Ansel Bunch	John Daniels	William Forbes	Sharon Hermann
Forest Burks	Tom Darden	Charles Fore	Stephanie Hertz
Ryan Burnett*	Paul Darnell	Patrick Franklin	Tom Hess
Chip Byrd	Howard Daugherty	Robert Franklin	Christina Hester
Jones Cahill	Edward Davidson	Eck Franks & Maureen Hafernik-Franks	Clifton Hill
Christopher Campbell	Jeffrey Davies	Conrad Franz	John Hinz
Tamara Campbell	Henry Davis	Allison Frederick	Harry Hodges
Leland & Martha Canady	Carlton Dawson	Reed Freeman	Larry Hodges
Charles Cannon	Nicholas Day	Steve & Judi Friedman	Valentijn Hoff
Jeffrey Cannon	Gail Deas	Kelley Galownia	Gerald Hogsette
Angela Carl	Richard Deas	John Gilbert	Thomas Holbrook
Jake Carlen	Janne Debes	Frank Gilliam	John Hoomes
Gordon Carlisle	Colette DeGarady	Dean Gjerstad	Scott & Becky Hoover
Patrick Carpenter	William Delk	Kirk Glenn	Doug Hornbeck
Douglas & Elizabeth Carter	Robert Demere	Angie Gnann	Rick Horsley
Joseph Carter	Samuel Denham	Howard Gnann	Chase Howard
Robert Carter	Doug & Carol Denhof	Pat Godbold	Teresa Howard
Joel Casto	Ronnell & Linda Denhof	Baron Graham	William Howard
William Cate	Hoyt Dennard	Monty Graham	Trenton Howell
Allan Causey	William Deutsch	Claire Graves	Franklyn Hudson
Doug Causey	Jay DeValk	Steven Graves	Trey Huey
Larry Chalkley	Don Dietz	Bryan Green	Anne Huggins
Allen Chamberlain	Samantha Dillon	Matt & Aubrey Greene	Bill Hughes
Cecil Chambliss	C. Dockery	Paul Greene	Jimmy Hughes
Charles Chandler	Jimmy Dodson	Harry Grier	David Huguenin
Charles Chapin	Vic Doig	Travis Guinn	Stephanie Huguenin
Bruce Chapman	Arthur Domby	Megan Gulledge	Michael & Mary Ann Huston
Lloyd Chapman	Shantelle Donelly	Mark Hains	Jon Ingram
George Chastain	Abigail Dowd	Daniel Hall	A.J. Isacks
Mike Chism	Carson Dugger	Julia Hall	Alison Ives
Robert Ciminel	David Dukes	Deborah Haller	Joe Ivey
Martin Cipollini	Wendy Dunaway	Jessica Hamilton	Steve Jack
David Clabo	Jacalyn Duncan	Jim Hamilton	Glenn Jackson
Barry Clark	Rufus & Marianna Duncan	Joseph Hamilton	Karen Jackson
William Clark	Alden Early	James Hamrick	Harold James
Gregory Clayton	Davis Easterling	Eleanor Hand	Raymon & Lydia Jechorek*
Herbie Clearman	Katherine Eddins	F. Hane	Joe Jennings
William Cleckley	Andrew Edelman	Amanda Haralson & Thomas A. Livesay	Cliff & Leigh Johnson
Emily Clem	Brian Van Eerden	David Hardin	Clifford Johnson
Robert Clontz	Bernard Eichold	Michael Hardy	Jon Johnson
Bill Cole	David Elliott	Kyle Harms	Knowlton Johnson
Thomas Coleman	R. Elliott	Charles Harrell	Rhett Johnson
Durden Collins	Jeffery Elliott*	George & Jo Ann Harris	John & Tracy Johnston
Martin Colvin	Thomas & Judith Ellis	Wade Harrison	Miles Johnston
Dave Conser	Danny Epting	Claudia Harvie	Brannon Jones
William Consoletti	Sam Erby	David Hayden	David Jones
Eugene Cook	Kent Evans	Phil Hazle	Kelly Jones
Charles Cox	George Farmer	Gary Heap	Sheila Jones
David Craig	David Farnsworth	Vaughan Hedrick	James Jordan
LuAnn Craighton	John Fezio		Anderson Kane
Bob & Carol Crate	Eugene Filipowicz		Maria Kendall

SUPPORT THE ALLIANCE

Neil Kennedy	Mike McEnany	Don Parker	Sara Rosen
David & Jane Kidd	Helen McFadden	William Parker*	Helen Roth
Wallace Killcrease	Jane McFaddin	Greg & Michele Paschal	Monica Rother
Carolyn Kindell	Margaret McFaddin*	Karen Patterson	Scott Sager
Allen Kirchner	Mark McGhee	Sandy Peacock	Mark Salley
Matthew Kline	Jessica McGuire	Fernand Pecot	Salem & Dianne Saloom
Amy Knight	John McGuire	L.O. Peebles	Jenny Sanders
Jennifer Kornder	Trippy McGuire	Robert Peet	Thomas Sanders
Jamie Kreiner	Hervey McIver	Tami Pellicane	William & Jane Sandlin
Lisa Kruse	Rodney McKay	Jesse Petrea	Lisa Sandoval*
Brian Lacey	Thomas & Gwen McKee	Thomas & Carol Pinckney	Holley Sanford
John Ladson	Keith McKnight	Clarissa Pipes	Andrew Saunders
Charles Lane	Larry & Virginia McLendon	Andrew Pittman	Anthony Savereno
William & Kimiko Langford	Frank McLeod	Craig Pittman	C. Sawyer
Eleanor Lanier	Joe McNeil	Dana Pittman	Mary Sayer
Harry Larsen	Wendy McNeil	Jerry Pittman	Jim Schroering
L. Keville & Weezie Larson	C.G. Meador	Rusty Plair	Randal Sellers
Stallworth Larson	Roger Mickelson	Ad & Margaret Platt	Michael Sessions
William Laseter	Delores Middleton	Beth Plummer	Randall Shaffer
Judy Latham	Brandy Midura	Dotty Porter	Terry Sharpe
Bob Lazenby	Douglas Miller	James & Pamela Porter	Gates Shaw
Tom Ledbetter	Lou Miller	Richard & Rita Porterfield	Harry Shealy
Wendy Ledbetter	Susan Miller	Rick Potter	Diane Shearer
Anne Lee	Robert Mills	Sara Potts	John Shearer
David Lee	Glen & Vicki Mixon	Richard Powell	Richard Shefler
George Lee	Buddy & Robin Moody	Michael Prevost	Chad Shepard
Roger Lee	Annette Moore	Christian Preziosi	David Sherman
Martin Levisen	Doug Moore	Tom Proctor	Graham Simmons
Stephen Lindeman*	Ginger Moore	Howard Putnal	Kent Simmons
Frank Lipp	Julie Moore	Sally Querin	Charles Simon
Robert Livingston*	M. Morrison	Tom Rankin	James Simons
James Lockwood	Jeffery Morton*	Tom & Eleanor Ratchford	Gerhard Skaar
Rebecca Logan	Gary Mozel	David Ratcliffe	Adam Smith
Lisa Lord	Gunn Murphy	Dan Rather	Beverly Smith
Jack Lufkin	Lytton Musselman	James Rawles	Bill Smith
Robert Lurate	Stephen Musser	Janisse Ray*	Byron Smith
Camille Luscher	Ryan Nagy	Kyle & Ann Redden	Gary Smith
Matthew Lynch	Kay Nail*	Walter Reeves	Latimore Smith
Paul Lyrene	Darin Newman	Bob Reid	Mathew Smith
Edward Mackay	James Neyman	Daniel Reynolds	William Smith
Gil & Anne Mackey	Kenwood Nichols	Edward Reynolds	Geoffrey Sorrell
Jacqueline Maloney	Matt Nicholson	Steve Reynolds	James St. John
Dudley Maples	Ben O'Connor	Charles & Suzanne Rhodes	Paul & Brenda Standish
Jeff Marcus	Molly O'Connor	Allen Rice	Ken Stanton
Joel Marsh	Mike & Bettye Older	Phil & Helen Richardson	Deck Stapleton
James Martin	Raymond Oliver	James Richburg	Beth Stewart
Thomas Martin	Julia O'Neal	Cecilia Richmond	James & Amy Stewart
John Matel	Steve Osborn*	Abraham Rifkin	Lewis Stewart
Craig Maurice	Brian Oswald	Adrian Ringland	Jonathan Stober
Bobby McAfee	Kenneth Outcalt	Louie Rivers	Ken Stocks
Jerry McCallister	Roger Overton	Sonny Roberts	Matthew Stoddard
Robert McCartney	J. Paden	Kevin Robertson	Perry Stowe*
Susan McCracken	Ronnie Padgett	Charles Roe	Bill & Shanna Sullivan
Suellen McCrimmon	Andrew & Laura Page	Chad Rogers	Jon Sullivan
Mark & Peggy McElreath	Joe & Gay Park	Curtis Rollins	Charley & Susan Tarver
Mitchell McElroy	Anne Parker	Thomas Roney	Gary Tate

SUPPORT THE ALLIANCE

Nathan Teel
Donald Temple
Adam Terry
James Thacker
Buddy & Joan Thomas
Lindsay Thomas
Helen Thompson
M. Thompson
William Tietjen
Russ Tillman
Enoch Timothy
Mike Tinkey*
Gena Todia
Rob & Jackie Trickel
James Truax
W. Tucker
Adam Tyson
John Vick
Skip Vogelsang & Dianne
James Wadsworth
William Walley
Melanie Walter
Paul Walter
Breanne Ward
Ron Ward
Clay Ware
Anna Wasden
George Watkins
Donald Watson
Shirley Watson*
Ben Weaver
Elliot Weaver
David Weiss
Shane Wellendorf
Michael Wetherbee
E. Whelchel
Gary White
George Whitehurst
Joel & Allise Whitworth
Boyd & Charlotte Wiede
Charles Williams
Suzanne Williams
Linda Wilson
Rebecca Wilson
Jesse Wimberley
John Winn
Fremont Wirth
James Wise
Eric Wixtrom
Andrew Woodham
Phillip & Debbie Woods
Tiffany Woods
John Woodward
Ashby Worley
Steve Worthington
Jennifer Wright

Larry Wright
Zan Yarbrough
Alyssa Young
Gary & Julia Youngblood
Samuel Youngblood
Miriam Youngquist-Thurow
Lamar Zipperer

Corporate Conservation Partners

\$10,000 Level

Enviva
Packaging Corporation of America

\$7,000 Level

Evergreen Packaging

\$5,000 Level

Advantage Forestry Container Pines, LLC
ArborGen, LLC
Aria Journey
Bartlett Tree Experts
Blanton's Longleaf Container Nursery
CHEP; A Brambles Co.
Flowing Well, LLC
Forest Investments Associate
Georgia-Pacific
Hancock Timber Resource Group
International Forest Company
Kronospan
Meeks' Farms & Nursery, Inc.
PRT Growing Services
Resource Management Service, LLC
Whitfield Farms & Nursery

\$2,500 - \$4,999 Level

Appalachian Mountain Brewery
Bodenhamer Farms and Nursery
Domtar Paper Co., LLC
Ernst Conservation Seeds
Finite Carbon
Forestate Growers, LLC
Fram Renewable Fuels, LLC
International Paper
Koppers Utility and Industrial Products
Land Limited
Meeks Farms & Nursery, Inc.
Milliken Forestry

New-Indy Catawba, LLC
Pro-Serve, Inc.
Roundstone Native Seed, LLC
Shadetree Partners
Outdoor Underwriters

\$1,000 - \$2,499 Level

Charles Ingram Lumber Co.
Coastal Pine Straw
Drax Biomass
Green Assets
Hood Industries, Inc.
Little Thomas, LLC
LJR Forest Products
Merrily Plantation, Inc.
Molpus Woodlands Group
Nutrien Solutions
The Cargo Hold
The Westervelt Company
The Wood Yard
WD CHIPS, LLC

\$500-\$999 Level

Carolina Biological Supply Company
Cohassett Farm, LLC
Crosby Land & Resources
Crowell Forest Resources, LLC
Diamond Timberlands, LLC
DS Smith
Folio Fred, LLC
Jordan Timberlands, Inc.
Long Leaf Land & Timber, LLC
Nalty Timberlands
Resolute Forest Products
Spring Lake Tree Farm, LLC
SunFarm Energy
Wake Stone Corporation
Whipple Tree Farm
White Oak Forestry Corporation
Woodstone Resources, LLC

\$250-\$499 Level

Cedar Creek Land & Timber, Inc
Cheeha Combahee Plantation
Creek Ranch Holdings
Cumberland Plantation
Dargan, King & Knight, LLC
Dexter Longleaf, LLC
JE Pittman Pea River Farm, LLC
John L. Russell Properties, LLC
Loblolly Forest
Long's Services, LLC
Moore Farms Botanical Garden, LLC
Nancy R. Walters Consulting

Oakridge Partners, LP
Ridge Properties, LLC
Thomas Farms, Inc.
Timber Wood Prints
Varn Wood Products, LLC
Visions, LLC
Wolfe Timber
Wybulu Farm & Timber, LLC

\$100-\$249 Level

Aucilla Pines, LLC
Bankhead Land & Timber
Bill Ardrey Forestry, Inc.
Black Mingo Plantation, LLC
Bladen Farms
Bradley Tree Farms, LLC
Broadwell Brothers, LLC
C.V. Forestry Services, Inc.
Charles Dixon & Co., LLC
Chartered Foresters, Inc.
Cone's Folly Timber Farm, LLC
Congaree River, LLC
Crest Natural Resources, LLC
Crowell Forest Resources, LLC
Cumberland Plantation
Delaney Development, Inc.
Earl H. Bennett Forestry, Inc.
Flowers Forestry, LLC
Folk Land Management, Inc.
Forestall Company, Inc.
Grace Acres Farms
Henderson & Associates, Inc.
Hill Forest Management
Hobcaw Barony
Jenkins Timber Properties, LLC
Keim's Forestry Services
Leary Properties, LLP
Light Forestry Consulting
Services, LLC
Longleaf Energy Group, Inc.
May Nursery, Inc.
Nixon Land Company
O.W. Cox Naval Stores, LLC
Oak Grove Farm
Oser Forestry Services
OVF Management, Inc.
Pasley River Farms, Inc.
Pinestar Farms, Inc.
RFR Consulting, Inc.
Rigdon Livestock Farms, Inc.
Rochelle Plantation LLC
Sand Hills Forestry
Spring Creek Land Company,
LLC
Stone Mountain Farm, LLC*

Stuewe & Sons, Inc.	Varn Turpentine & Cattle Company	US Fish and Wildlife Service, South Carolina	National Wild Turkey Federation, North Carolina Chapter
Superior Longleaf Farm	W.A. Freise & Sons Timber and Land Company, Inc.	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas	National Wild Turkey Federation, South Carolina Chapter
Thompson Forest Consultants, Inc.		US Forest Service	National Wildlife Federation
Tree Ring Co.		US Forest Service, Conecuh National Forest	NextEra Energy Foundation, Inc.
Uchee Farms, LP		US Forest Service, Kisatchie National Forest	One Tree Planted
Wildland Management Services, LLC		USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Robert K. Johnson Foundation
Woodland Cottage LLC		USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana	South Carolina Association of Consulting Foresters
Up to \$100 Level		Virginia Division of Forestry	South Carolina Bluebird Society
BB & MS Rounsville Farms		USFS Apalachicola National Forest	South Carolina Tree Farm Committee
Bradco, Inc.		USFS Desoto National Forest	Southeast Regional Land Conservancy, Inc.
Brewer Lands, LLC			Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc.
Caldwell-Dietzel Farms			Tall Timbers Research, Inc.
Carolina Heart Pine, Inc.			The Conservation Fund
Chilton Timber & Land Co., LLC			The Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Cleveland, Inc.			The Horton Trust
Construction Supplies of New Orleans, Inc.			The Jones Center at Ichauway
Cotney, LTD			The Nature Conservancy
Coward Family LTD Partnership			The Orianne Society
Dopson Forestry Services			The Sandhills Area Land Trust
Elizabeth Pottery			The Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation
Forest and Land Management, Inc.			The South Carolina Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters
Forest Lodge Farms, LLC			Triangle Land Conservancy
Gillespie Lumber, LTD			Universal Ethician Church
Good Earth Systems, LLC			US Endowment for Forestry and Communities
Goose Creek Forestry			Walhour-Moss Foundation
Grasslander			
Hand Me Down Farm, LLC			
Harrison Woodlands, LLC			
Hilltop Pines, LLC			
Hoota Woods Plantation LLC			
K & L Forest Nursery			
Leon Farms, LLC			
McKeon Tree Farm*			
Never Fail Farms			
North Bassett's Creek Timber Management			
Ole Pataula Farms, LLC			
Plantation Pinestraw			
Pottage Patch, LLC			
RCWO, LLC			
River Ridge Plantation			
South Carolina Pole & Piling, Inc.			
Southern Forestry Consultants, Inc.			
Sunbelt Management Company			
Sunny Brook Farms			
Timberland Transitions, LLC			
Agency Conservation Partners			
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources			
Florida Department of Natural Resources Management, Escambia County			
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission			
Florida Forest Service			
Florida State University			
Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division			
Georgia Forestry Commission			
National Forest in Alabama			
Natural Resources Conservation Services, Alabama			
Natural Resources Conservation Services, Georgia			
Natural Resources Conservation Services, South Carolina			
Naval Air Station Pensacola			
Naval Air Station Whiting Field			
North Carolina Forest Service			
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division			
South Carolina Forestry Commission			
St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge			
Texas A & M Forest Service			
Texas Parks & Wildlife			
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro			
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service			
United States Forest Service			
US Department of Defense			
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Alabama			
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Georgia			
US Fish and Wildlife Service, North Carolina			
Nonprofit Conservation Partners			
Alabama Forest Owner's Association			
American Forest Foundation			
American Forest Management			
Anonymous			
Anonymous			
Anonymous			
Arbor Day Foundation			
Audubon South Carolina			
Bicknell Family Charitable Fund			
Bradley/Murphy Forestry Trust			
City of Greenville, SC			
Eastman Foundation			
Ellen A. Jacobs Charitable Fund			
FFS & Alachua Land Trust			
Gulf Power Foundation			
Lillian C. McGowin Foundation			
Louisiana Ecological Forestry Center			
Mobile Botanical Gardens			
National Audubon Society			
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative			
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation			
National Forest Foundation			
National Wild Turkey Federation, Alabama Chapter			
National Wild Turkey Federation, Florida Chapter			

*These donors have designated all or a portion of their contribution to The Longleaf Alliance Endowment.

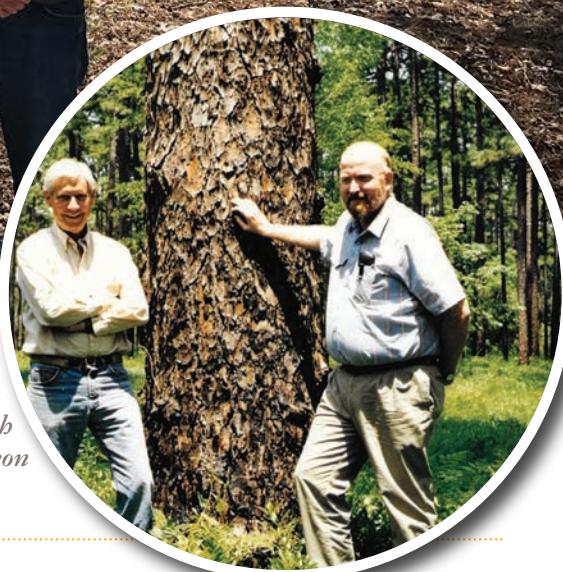
HEARTPINE

Reflections & Retrospective

By Bobby Franklin, The Longleaf Alliance



*Bobby Franklin
(on the right in
both photos) with
Lisa Lord and Leon
Neel.*



The only constant in life is change, and we have all seen a lifetime of change condensed into the past year. By the time this issue of *The Longleaf Leader* arrives in your mailbox, I will have transitioned from my former role as Coordinator of the SoLoACE LIT, another life event not originally part of the plan for 2020. On this milestone occasion, I was asked to reflect on my career in forestry, natural resources, and my love of longleaf that spans 42 years, the highlight being my six-year tenure with our organization.

I grew up in Lee County, Alabama, around longleaf forests that were mixed in with various hardwood species, a product of years of fire suppression. But there were vestiges of the potential of what these forests could be. We had diamondback rattlesnakes, fox squirrels, and gopher tortoises on our land, adjacent properties, and on my Mom's family land in Taylor County, Georgia. However, I didn't see the potential of what healthy longleaf forests could be until I visited the Escambia Experimental Forest in forestry summer camp as a student at Auburn in the summer of 1977. The landscape there and in surrounding areas was amazing! At Escambia, I felt that I had come "home" to a place that was part of my heritage. And, it was, as I learned when I delved into family history. Both sides of my family had a history of sawmilling and cattle herding in the pineywoods of southeast Alabama and southwest Georgia.

After college and a couple of years of employment in the forest industry, I had the good fortune to be hired by the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service as an Assistant County Agent in Escambia County at about the same time Rhett Johnson began

his tenure as the Director of the Solon Dixon Forestry Center. Naturally, we worked together on various adult and youth education projects and started a friendship that has endured. The foresters at T.R. Miller Mill Company, Ed Leigh McMillan, Frank Jones, Carl Muller, and former college classmates Rick Jones and Paul Padgett were generous in sharing their time, showing me how longleaf was managed for solid wood products and wildlife goals on their land base. The Escambia Experimental Forest staff and Dr. Bill Boyer, Tom Croker, and Dr. Bob Farrar were gracious and generous while mentoring me about longleaf and their work in the Forest. They encouraged me to attend graduate school and focus on longleaf, which I readily did. After earning this degree, I joined Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service as an Area Forestry & Wildlife Extension Agent in the South Carolina Lowcountry, where I used my knowledge to guide landowners in their management efforts that emphasized integrating forest management with wildlife goals, objectives that longleaf pine is well-suited.

Working in the Lowcountry landscape offered the chance to connect with the plantation community where a significant portion of healthy fire maintained natural longleaf remained. Those managers were gracious enough to share their knowledge, and in turn, I passed that information along to smaller

landowners with similar goals. We began taking landowners to Tall Timbers workshops in South Georgia and Florida, where folks like Larry Landers, Julie Moore, and Leon and Julie Neel were encouraging as we learned the nuances of managing and restoring longleaf pine and using prescribed fire. When The Jones Center began operations at Ichauway Plantation, we introduced programs and field trips to landowners, gaining wisdom from Dr. Steve Jack, Kevin McIntyre, and Dr. Bob Mitchell. Director Dr. Lindsay Boring encouraged our efforts and was a gracious host for the groups we brought down. In 2000, a highlight of my Clemson Extension career was my involvement in the South Carolina Master Naturalist Program. The Lowcountry program was the first in the state. I team-taught the longleaf natural history class to more than 1,500 individuals through the years, reaching 345 people during my six years with The Longleaf Alliance.

And of course, there were the landowners along the way, Kimbal Cunningham, Mooney Nalty, Willard Coley, Kirby & Lynda Beam, Brooks Lawton, and many others, who taught me well. As Natural Resource professionals, we don't have a corner on the knowledge market when managing land—remember that! I could write an epistle the size of this magazine, and it wouldn't be enough pages to describe all that I've seen, the people I've met along the way, what I've learned about the longleaf ecosystem — and to thank all the folks and my family who had a profound influence in my life and career. I owe much to many, including those mentioned above, but also a few more — Johnny Stowe, Dean Gjerstad, and my Clemson colleagues. I am grateful for the support, guidance, and mentoring I've received along the way.

Knowledge is of no use if you keep it bottled up. If I've learned one thing in my life, it's that for success, you've got to be generous with your time, share your love, knowledge, and wisdom with others. As I leave The Longleaf Alliance, it is my prayer that the staff and all of us in the longleaf community continue to freely share our knowledge and wisdom, collaborate with partners, and keep up the great work that was started years ago as we strive to restore longleaf to a meaningful part of our southern landscape. We learn much from each other, which brings great enjoyment and camaraderie; it's an art and science that we are still working out. I'm not sure what the next chapter in my longleaf journey will be, but my passion for it continues, and I'm open to other ways we can continue to advance restoration of the South's great forest. Thank you all for your kindness, friendship, inspiration, partnership, and all the love you've shown me! God bless all of you!

"Bob has been a pillar in the forestry community in SC for many years, and an admirable example to the next generation of SC foresters, biologists, and ecologists. His ability and willingness to provide spot-on technical advice to landowners and partners, whether they own 10 acres or 10,000, is something that we should all strive to emulate." *Gary Burger*

"When generations to come read the tales told so well in the rings of old trees, Bob's life-work will be there, indelibly etched. Wherever he worked, there is more fire, better longleaf, and more people who understand and appreciate longleaf landscapes. Bob's is a tale of restoration -- restoration of our most special lands and of the best of southern culture." *Johnny Stowe*

"Bobby Franklin has dedicated his life to educating and helping the landowners of the southern United States, especially on the successful planting, managing, growing, and burning of longleaf pine. All over the South, there are stands of successfully growing longleaf resulting from the advice Bob has given the landowners. It was a pleasure working with and getting to know Bob over the seven years I was privileged to serve The Longleaf Alliance." *Robert Abernethy*

"Bob has been a close friend for nearly 40 years, predating The Alliance, and his friendship has never wavered. He is the quintessential extension/outreach professional, making constant efforts to increase his knowledge, learn from his experiences, and then pass that on to landowners and land managers. What really separates him from most people is his obvious satisfaction and sincere pleasure in helping others. Because his interest in others is so genuine, he engenders trust that reassures his audiences. He was a valuable asset to extension organizations in both Alabama and South Carolina and has been equally effective in his work at The Alliance." *Rhett Johnson*

