



**The Owen Fellowship of The Longleaf Alliance to Award a \$20,000 Scholarship to Ian Warr, Graduate Student in Forestry & Natural Resources at University of Georgia, for Advanced Studies in the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem.**

ANDALUSIA, AL March 15, 2024 – Now in its second round, The Owen Fellowship of The Longleaf Alliance (TLA) is a program that makes a direct impact on the development of the next generation of longleaf pine restoration professionals and researchers. We are proud to announce that this year’s award will be given to Ian Warr, Graduate Student in Forestry & Natural Resources at the University of Georgia, in the amount of \$20,000. Ian’s project aims to unravel poorly understood physiological processes of longleaf pine, specifically the role of belowground non-structural carbohydrate (NSC) reserves in its early life history stages. In addition to establishing baseline belowground NSC concentrations in grass, bolting, sapling, and mature longleaf pine trees, this study will capture reductions in NSC reserves during bolting, construct an annual carbon budget, and assess the impact on estimated biomass.

“The selection committee is unanimous in our decision to offer Ian this year’s Fellowship. We were all so impressed with Ian and are excited about his project and what this work will contribute to longleaf restoration and management. Supporting this type of applied research is important to The Longleaf Alliance and we look forward to working with him,” said TLA’s President Carol Denhof.

Dr. William ‘Bill’ Owen is a professional musician, educator, and landowner in Virginia. Through his work on the Board of Directors of The Longleaf Alliance, he was inspired to endow a fellowship for advanced studies and research in the South’s great forest. He hopes The Owen Fellowship will encourage the next generation of longleaf leaders. “I’m obviously passionate about longleaf pine but I am also passionate about education. I decided to combine these two with a bequest to The Longleaf Alliance to endow a scholarship for advanced studies in the longleaf ecosystem.” (Bill Owen, 2021).

The Longleaf Alliance, based in Andalusia, Alabama, was established in 1995 to promote retention, management, and restoration of longleaf throughout its historic range, serve as a clearinghouse of information on all things longleaf, provide technical assistance to landowners and managers, provide education and training to natural resource professionals, and facilitate partnerships among the numerous public and private interests vital to the future of the longleaf forest. The mission of The Longleaf Alliance is to ensure a sustainable future for the longleaf pine ecosystem through partnerships, landowner assistance and science-based education and outreach.

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

Questions:

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