

CELEBRATING OUR LONGLEAF LEADERS

The Regional Longleaf Awards Program, offered in conjunction with the Biennial Longleaf Conference, recognizes individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to longleaf restoration and conservation across the southeastern U.S. Award recipients will be recognized at the 15th Biennial Longleaf Conference held at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Miramar Beach, Florida, on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

INDIVIDUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS



JON SCOTT

NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

BILL BOYER **NATURAL RESOURCE** **PROFESSIONAL**

Jon Scott plays a crucial role in managing NFWF's Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund. Jon's efforts have significantly increased funding available for longleaf pine restoration with new partners like the Bezos Earth Fund. He encourages partners to find novel and ambitious ways to address shortcomings in our collective work, and his leadership elevates longleaf efforts across the landscape. Jon is a passionate conservationist and a valuable asset to the longleaf community.

EMERGING LEADER

Lauren Pharr is a Ph.D. candidate in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at North Carolina State University researching the impacts of climate change on brood reduction in the Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

At the same time, Pharr participates in many initiatives to promote diversity in nature and field safety. She is co-founder of the nonprofit Field Inclusive, which seeks to support marginalized and historically underrepresented minorities who work in the natural science field. Lauren is actively involved in science communication, including serving as editor for an upcoming book on Inclusive Nature.



LAUREN PHARR

NC STATE UNIVERSITY & FIELD INCLUSIVE

GJERSTAD/JOHNSON **LANDOWNER** **OF THE YEAR**

Doug and Teresa Moore own and actively manage South Prong Plantation in Northeast Florida as a multi-use timber operation that integrates prescribed fire, diverse groundcover, and wildlife habitat. Mr. Moore's dedication has turned this property into a prime example of forest stewardship featuring longleaf pine. The Moores are true champions of longleaf pine ecosystems on private lands, hosting numerous education events for landowners and youth.



DOUG & TERESA MOORE

SOUTH PRONG PLANTATION



BILL RIVERS

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, LOUISIANA

BURNER BOB® **PRESCRIBED FIRE** **CHAMPION**

Bill Rivers has been a leader in prescribed fire for The Nature Conservancy in Louisiana and Mississippi since 2000. Of the 200+ fire operations he has led, many were in the wildland/urban interface along the Gulf Coast, requiring technical expertise in a challenging landscape. Bill mentors new fire leaders and offers guidance to conservation professionals across the country.



BRUCE HAGEDORN

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE NATURAL RESOURCES

TRUE LONGLEAF **CHAMPION** ::::

Bruce Hagedorn, Chief of Natural Resources at Eglin Air Force Base, has dedicated 33 years to preserving Florida's ecosystems. His leadership in the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership and efforts in recovering species like the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Okaloosa darter have been pivotal. Eglin's military mission is top priority, yet Bruce's team excels in longleaf pine restoration, prescribed fire, and wildlife programs, transforming the Air Force base into a model for longleaf ecosystem management and restoration.

TRUE LONGLEAF **CHAMPION** ::::

Mike Oliver's career spans six decades, focusing on forest conservation in the southeastern U.S. He played a key role in initiatives like the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Longleaf Pine Initiative, and the Shortleaf Pine Initiative, collaborating with numerous partners. His work with NRCS in Texas and Tennessee emphasized ecosystem restoration and prescribed fire. Recently retired, Mike is recognized for his lifetime dedication to forest conservation in the South.



MIKE OLIVER

NRCS STATE FORESTER "RETIRED"
TEXAS AND TENNESSEE

2024 REGIONAL LONGLEAF AWARDS

"The Regional Longleaf Awards allow us to shine a light on the individuals and organizations that are making meaningful contributions to the overall longleaf restoration effort. We are honored to recognize such a well-deserving group of award recipients this year and show our appreciation for their dedication to this ecosystem that we all love," said Carol Denhof, President of The Longleaf Alliance.

CONSERVATION PARTNER RECIPIENTS



**FOREST
INVESTMENT
ASSOCIATES**

**THE PALUSTRIS
CORPORATE
ACHIEVEMENT**

FIA's commitment to sustainable timberland management benefits clients and the global environment by simultaneously enhancing timber production and protecting forestland resources. FIA fully subscribes to the National Alliance of Forest Owners® Commitment to Sustainable Forest Management and manages all properties according to their own Stewardship Policy. FIA has been a supporter and Corporate Conservation Partner of The Longleaf Alliance for twenty-five years. Their commitment to ensuring a sustainable future for the longleaf pine ecosystem is significant and long-standing.

**NONPROFIT
CONSERVATION
PARTNER**



**TRUST FOR
PUBLIC
LAND™**

The Trust for Public Land creatively secures funding and successfully completes complex land protection projects. In Northwest Florida, they have protected over 13,000 acres of Wolfe Creek Forest, now part of Blackwater River State Forest, and preserved 1,000 acres near military lands, now managed by Santa Rosa County, providing crucial wetland and rare species habitat. The Trust's mission is, "We create parks and protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come." Their work will be evident to everyone who enjoys and benefits from these natural areas in the years to come.



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TEAM ACHIEVEMENT

**FORT STEWART/HUNTER ARMY
AIRFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL
RESOURCES DIVISION**

Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield is the largest Army installation east of the Mississippi River. With 285,000 acres under their management, the Environmental & Natural Resources Division excels in prescribed fire, habitat restoration, and species recovery programs, contributing significantly to environmental protection and ecosystem conservation.



USDA FOREST SERVICE TEAM ACHIEVEMENT

**FRANCIS MARION NATIONAL FOREST
& SANTEE EXPERIMENTAL FOREST**

The Santee Experimental Forest, located within the Francis Marion National Forest in South Carolina, is pioneering research and longleaf pine restoration at the watershed scale. The Forests prioritize knowledge sharing and partner engagement to bridge the gap between research and on-the-ground efforts to restore the landscape.



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**EAST TEXAS PLANT
MATERIALS CENTER**

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The mission of the East Texas Plant Materials Center is to develop plant-based solutions for conservation needs in the western coastal plain through the selection of native plants, plant-based technology development, and public outreach and education. Currently, the Center is focused on understory species for longleaf and shortleaf pine habitat restoration, working closely with the East Texas Natives Program. This collaboration and the many other roles of the East Texas Plant Materials Center are crucial in supporting private landowners who are implementing groundcover restoration.

**GEORGIA PARTNERS
FOR FISH & WILDLIFE**

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The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is a national program from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that restores and enhances wildlife habitats through technical assistance and cost-sharing opportunities for private landowners. Since 2002, the Georgia Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has impacted nearly 29,000 acres across 228 projects. These efforts include planting longleaf pine, promoting prescribed fire, and controlling invasive vegetation. The restoration projects benefit both landowners and endemic species like the American chaffseed, Eastern indigo snake, gopher tortoise, and Bachman's Sparrow.