
The Florida Forest Steward



A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

Volume 12, No. 2

Fall 2005

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Congratulations to the 2004 Forest Stewardship Landowner of the Year: Mr. Jerry Davis, Lost Pond Plantation, Madison County, Florida

By Edgar Barrs, Florida Division of Forestry and Chris Demers

Mr. Jerry Davis purchased 1,934 acres of former International Paper Company land in 2001 in Madison County. Immediately after purchasing the property, he began making improvements and joined Florida's Forest Stewardship Program in January of 2003. Through the technical assistance and educational programs provided through the Program, he and his manager, Ferrell Robinson, have productively managed the property for wildlife, timber, recreation and aesthetics. Having made great progress in a short time, Mr. Davis was certified as a Forest Steward in August of 2003. Since then, the Lost Pond Plantation has become one of the finest examples of long-term, multiple-use forest management in Florida, making Jerry Davis our 2004 Stewardship Landowner of the Year.



Ferrell Robinson (L) and Jerry Davis (R)
Photo by Edgar Barrs,
Florida Division of Forestry



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Lost Pond Plantation, photo by Edgar Barrs

Lost Pond Plantation

Lost Pond Plantation is a diverse mix of natural longleaf pine stands, loblolly and slash pine plantations, sand pine, wetlands, drains, wildlife openings, a pond and a network of forest roads. Past timber and wildlife management activities on the property by the former owner and the productive soil types have provided an excellent opportunity for enhancing habitat for a variety of wildlife species including deer, turkey, quail and dove. Given the diversity of habitats needed to accommodate these species, habitat for a variety of nongame birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians will be created or enhanced by Mr. Davis' continued management.

Wildlife Management

As you probably guessed, wildlife is Mr. Davis' primary objective for the

property. While some low-intensity wildlife management practices were implemented by the former owner, Jerry and Ferrell have significantly increased management efforts to yield more viable animal populations, while significantly increasing both the aesthetics and recreational opportunities of the property. This is being realized through:

- aggressive thinning of all merchantable planted pines;
- creating a large open corridor through large, young planted pine stands;
- converting sand pine stands to longleaf and wiregrass;
- chemically controlling bahiagrass and breaking large pastures into smaller units with planted longleaf and wildlife food plants;
- increasing the distribution of natural and planted food plants for deer and turkey; and

- prescribed burning of newly thinned or mature timber stands

Timber Management

Taking second priority to wildlife, timber production will complement all wildlife management projects on the property. Soil types on the property are ideal for growing timber. Site indices approach 90 in many areas (height of dominant trees is 80-90 feet). Aggressive thinning for wildlife objectives will sacrifice some timber revenue but management practices will yield high-value products. Revenue from timber harvests will be important in offsetting intensive wildlife management costs. With a road system in place, access to all areas of the property will be maintained.

Stewardship Tour of Lost Pond Plantation

Through his vision and long-term, multiple-use land management, Mr. Davis exemplifies the Stewardship ethic. He loves the land for all it provides and will provide for the future. This is a well managed property with significant wildlife value and many examples of integrated resource management.

This property must be seen to fully appreciate it and you will have a chance to visit during the first Stewardship Property Tour of the 2005-2006 season. Join us on Friday, October 14 at 1:00 PM (tentative) at the property to meet Jerry Davis and Ferrell Robinson, and see for yourself what makes Lost Pond Plantation an important part of Florida's productive private forestland. An

announcement for the tour will be mailed to the Forest Stewardship list soon with more details.

Call the Madison County Extension Office at 850-973-4138 to register for the tour.

Randy Hill Replaces Todd Groh as Division of Forestry Conservation Programs Manager

Todd Groh, former DOF Conservation Programs Manager, accepted a position as the Assistant State Forester with the West Virginia Division of Forestry. Replacing Todd is Randy Hill. Randy received his Bachelor of Science in Forestry at Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas in 1972. He moved to Crestview, Florida in 1978 where he worked in timber procurement for eleven years with responsibilities in Texas and Florida. Randy joins the Florida Forest Stewardship team with a wealth of practical and leadership experience in the natural resources field after owning and operating a consulting forestry business in the western Florida Panhandle and Alabama for 18 years.

Forest Land Recovery Funds Available

By Randy Hill, Conservation Programs Manager, DOF

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry announces that it will hold a sign-up for enrollment in the Forest Land Recovery Program (FLRP) from July 22 through October 21.

This program, authorized under the 2005 Military Construction Appropriations and Emergency Hurricane Supplemental

Appropriations Act, is available to non-industrial private forest landowners on a 75-25 (government:landowner) cost share basis. Eligible practices include, but are not limited to: site preparation, tree planting, and debris removal activities. Landowners who own at least 10 acres but no more than 5,000 acres of land in Florida and who have a practice plan will be eligible to receive funding assistance under FLRP. A maximum of \$25,000 will be available for each qualifying landowner as reimbursement for incurred expenses for approved practices. A total of \$6,000,000.00 will be available to forest landowners statewide.

Almost half of the state's 14 million acres of forestland is owned by private non-industrial forest landowners. After the hurricane season of 2004, many of these landowners are in need of financial assistance to help restore their forestlands.

Landowners can obtain application forms from their local Division of Forestry office and from other cooperating agencies. DOF foresters will provide technical assistance to landowners and will be the local contact person for participating landowners. For more information, contact Randy Hill, Florida Division of Forestry Conservation Programs Manager, in Tallahassee at 850-414-9907, hillw@doacs.state.fl.us, your local DOF County Forester, or visit www.fl-dof.com.

Nighttime Burning is Back

Landowners have another option for when they conduct prescribed burns. Broadcast prescribed burns can be

conducted at night provided that weather conditions are right. Contact your local Division of Forestry office after 2:00 pm in the afternoon to see if the nighttime dispersion index is high enough to allow for burning.

For non-certified prescribed burners, the night time dispersion must be at an eight or above in order for the Division of Forestry to authorize nighttime burns. This will allow them to burn from one hour before sunset until 9:00 am the next morning. The nighttime authorization will allow landowners to actively put fire on the ground until midnight, at which time no new fire may be ignited. Fire can continue to burn and spread until the next morning. If it is determined that you need more time the next morning to complete your burn, a daytime authorization will be required.

For certified prescribed burners, the nighttime dispersion must be at a six or above in order to obtain a nighttime burn authorization. This authorization is also valid from one hour before sunset until 9:00 am the next morning and fire can be put on the ground until midnight. Your burn can continue to burn and spread until the next morning. If more time is needed to complete the burn, a daytime authorization will be required. Certified prescribed burners still need to follow all other requirements for conducting a certified burn.

Many of the Division of Forestry's districts are now allowing nighttime burn authorizations **for certified burners** with a nighttime dispersion index of three (3) or above in specially designated areas. Those districts participating include Blackwater,

Tallahassee, Perry, Jacksonville, Bunnell, Orlando, Lakeland, Myakka River, Okeechobee, and Caloosahatchee. If you conduct certified prescribed burns in any of these Districts, please contact them to see which sections of the District are included in this special nighttime authorization area for certified burners. Some areas of the state are not participating because of smoke management concerns, but may be included in the future based on the results of the ongoing evaluation of this new guideline.

A map showing the areas of the state where the special nighttime burning is allowed is posted on the Division of Forestry web site at http://www.fl-dof.com/wildfire/rx_specialcase_map.html. This guideline will be evaluated on a continual basis to determine how effective it is, which may result in an increase or decrease in the number of sections. Further information can be obtained from your local Division of Forestry office.

Source: Florida Division of Forestry

Wildlife Plant Feature: Broomsedge (*Andropogon* spp.)

Broomsedge, also known as beard grass, or broom straw, is not a true sedge but is a member of the grass family, *Poaceae*. The common name comes from the historical use of the plant: the long, brush-like grasses were bunched together to make brooms. The scientific name of the genus *Andropogon* comes from two Latin words which mean 'beard of a man' and refers to the fuzzy growth that appears on the plant in the fall. These fuzzy hairs aid in the wind dispersal of seeds.



Broomsedge, photo by Larry Korhnaak

In the fall, the leaves turn a conspicuous reddish-orange color that may be seen in open fields or along roadsides and forests edges. Broomsedge is widely distributed throughout much of the eastern United States, from as far north as Maine and south into Florida. Its range extends westward to Texas and Illinois.

Form: a perennial bunch grass that grows as a hardy clump. It dies back every fall then regrows from the same root mass the following spring. The stiff, erect stems reach 3' to 4' in height and bear the flowers and seeds.

Leaves: long, linear, and laterally compressed with a flat leaf base. They are bluish-green in color and have rough margins. Leaves are slightly hairy,

especially near the leaf sheath, the lower part of the leaf overlaps along the stem.

Flowers: as with most grasses, the flowers form on small, branched structures along the upper half of the stems.

Fruit and seeds: a tiny, yellow or purplish grain or seed. The seeds are covered with hairy bristles that aid in long distance dispersal by wind.

Wildlife value: The young plants are sometimes used as grazing forage by cattle or cut and used as hay. As the plants mature, they become too woody for the cattle to digest well. Bobwhite quail and small rodents eat the grass and seeds and many wildlife species use the plants for shelter or nesting sites.

Reference

University of Florida's 4-H Companion Plant page at:
www.sfrc.ufl.edu/4h/Trees_Plants/Plants/plants.html.

Master Wildlifer 2005 Tapes, DVDs, Books, Materials Now Available

If you could not participate or know someone who could not participate in Master Wildlifer 2005, tapes, DVDs, notes, and books for the program are now for sale on the Master Wildlifer Web site: <http://masterwildlifer.org/>. Scroll down to "News and Events" and click on "Materials Order Form". If you do not have Internet access and wish to order these materials, call Chris Demers at 352-846-2375 and he'll send you a form.

Background: Master Wildlifer is a

satellite broadcast, Clemson University Extension short course for landowners and land managers across the southeast who are interested in integrating wildlife considerations into their current land use. Farmers, forestland owners, and others interested in wildlife will find Master Wildlifer to be a wealth of practical information that will serve as a guide to develop and improve wildlife habitat on their land. Special emphasis is placed on wildlife species (game species) that offer landowners additional sources of income through recreational access fees.

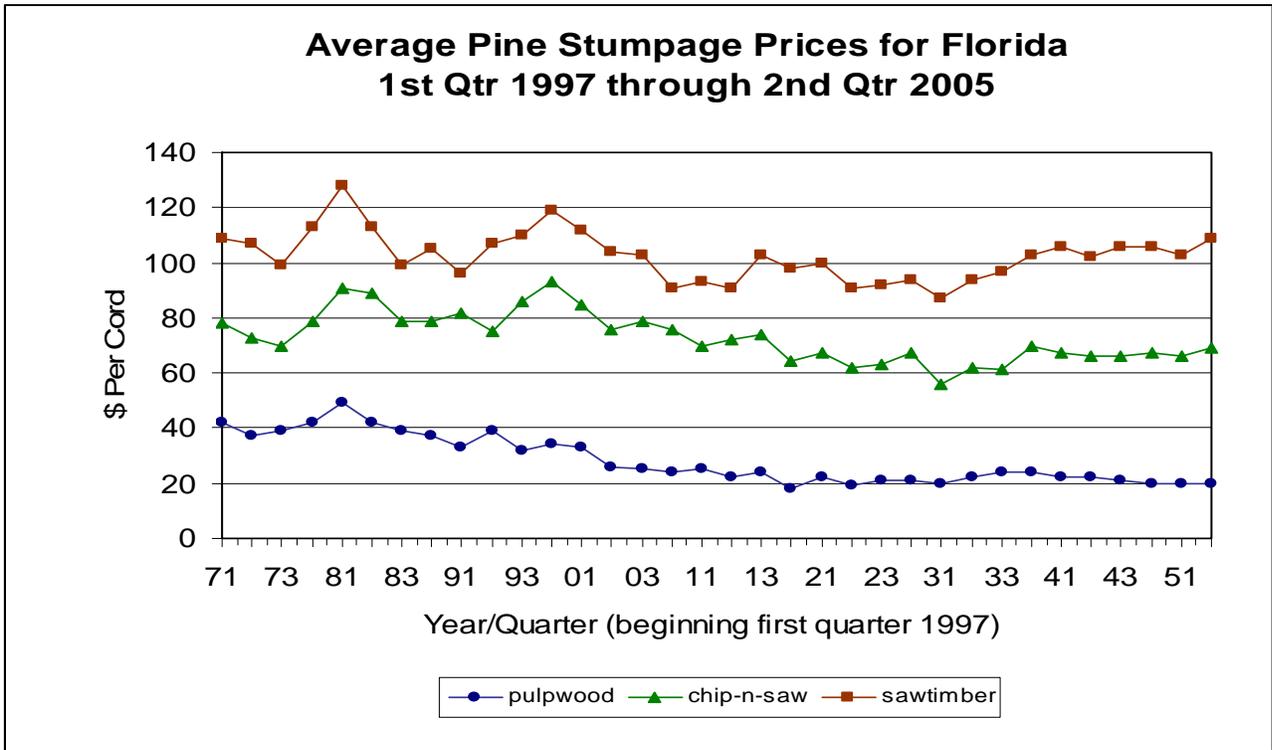
Master Tree Farmer – Level 2 coming in February 2006

The dates for the live satellite broadcast are scheduled for Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm Eastern to 10:00 pm ET; February 7, 2006 to March 21, 2006. Mark your calendar. Several sites will be showing videos 2-3 weeks after the live broadcast schedule. Details will be in the brochure, to be mailed later in the fall, and will be on the Florida Forestry Information Bulletin Board at <http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/ffws/bul.htm>.

UF-IFAS Extension agents, DOF County Foresters and FWC Wildlife Biologists, call Chris Demers at 352-846-2375 if you are interested in hosting a live downlink or tape-delay site.

Timber Price Update

This information is useful for observing trends over time, but does not necessarily reflect current conditions at a particular location. Landowners considering a timber sale would be wise to let a consulting forester help them



obtain the best current prices. Note that price per ton for each product is included in parentheses after the price per cord.

Stumpage price ranges reported across Florida in the **2nd Quarter 2005** Timber Mart-South (TMS) report were:

- Pine pulpwood: \$14-\$25/cord (\$5-\$9/ton), ↓ from 1st Quarter 2005
- Pine C-N-S: \$58-\$78/cord (\$22 - \$29/ton), ↑
- Pine sawtimber: \$96 - \$118/cord (\$36 - \$44/ton), ↑
- Pine plylogs: \$103 - \$124/cord (\$39 - \$46/ton), ↓
- Hardwood pulpwood: \$14 - \$27/cord (\$5 - \$9/ton), ↑

Trend Report

The graph above charts average quarterly stumpage prices, reported in Timber Mart-South for three major log classes for all of north Florida. Numbers on the horizontal axis indicate the year

(first digit) and quarter (second digit), so 71 indicates the first quarter of 1997.

With the exception of hardwood pulpwood prices, which remained on the increase, second quarter stumpage price trends in Florida were a mirror image of last quarter. Products that were up last quarter were down this quarter and vice versa. Across the South, stumpage price trends from last quarter were mixed. Precipitation patterns (wet in the east and dry in the west part of the region) probably account for some differences, and continuing hurricane salvage operations in the panhandle continue to take their toll on prices in that region.

A more complete summary of 2nd Quarter 2005 stumpage prices is available at your County Extension office. See forest2market.com for weekly, South-wide, per-ton price updates for the major pine and hardwood timber products.

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
September 7-8, 2005	<i>Florida Forestry Association Annual Meeting 2005 at World Golf Village Renaissance in Saint Augustine, Florida.</i> Nine information sessions are planned for the two-day event, including a look at carbon credits for growing pine trees and an exclusive first look at the new forest plan drawn up by a select group of leaders and policymakers. For more information about the meeting, email info@forestfla.org or see http://www.floridaforest.org/ .
September 28-29, 2005	<i>Wildlife Expo & Forestry Field Days, West Florida Research and Education Center at Jay, FL</i> - hosted by Dr. Rick Williams. Call Robin Vickers at 850-983-5216 x 113 or email rvickers@ufl.edu . See http://wfrec.ufl.edu/center/events.htm# to register on-line and for more Center events and information.
October 13-14, 2005:	<i>1st Annual Quail Management Shortcourse. Turner Center Annex, Arcadia, FL.</i> This program is designed to educate landowners, managers, hunters, and quail enthusiasts on the ecology and management of northern bobwhite quail in Florida. Science-based information will come from a variety of sources including academia, natural resource agencies, landowners, and others. Registration is \$50.00. Call 863-993-4846 for more information. On the Web at http://www.floridafarmbureau.org/EventsDetail.aspx?EventId=191 .
October 14, 2005	<i>Forest Stewardship Property Tour</i> , at the property of Jerry Davis, Forest Stewardship Landowner of the Year. Call the Madison County Extension Office at 850-973-4138 to register for the tour.
February 7 – March 21, 2006	<i>Master Tree Farmer – Level 2</i> , at participating downlink and tape-delay locations across Florida and the Southeast. Topics will include silvicultural prescriptions, vegetation management, forest health, forest measurements, forest products and more. Call Chris Demers at 352-846-2375 for more information.

For more information about Florida's Forest Stewardship Program and forest management visit the Florida Forestry Information Web site at www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/ffws/ffwshome.htm

A University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service and Florida Division of Forestry joint project:

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