
The Florida Forest Steward



A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

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In this issue:

- Welcome New Forest Stewards and Tree Farmers
- New Reporting Rules for Lump-sum Timber Sales
- The Southeastern American Kestrel Needs Your Help
- Landowners are the Focus of Florida Forestry Association Annual Meeting
- Landscape Mulches – A Potential Fire Problem?
- New UF Extension Publications
- Thanks Forest Stewardship Program Sponsors
- From the Stump
- Congratulations Certified Forest Stewards
- Event Announcements
- Timber Price Update
- Events Calendar

Welcome New Forest Stewards and Tree Farmers

For some this may be the first issue of The Florida Forest Steward newsletter you receive. On behalf of the Florida Forest Stewardship Program and Tree Farm partners we welcome you to this growing network of family forest landowners, extension agents, public and private natural resource professionals, forest advocates and others involved with Florida's forests.

We encourage you to explore and employ the many resources that are available to assist you in your forest management planning and activities. The Florida Division of Forestry, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, University of Florida, Florida Forestry Association and other public and private partners have a wealth of expertise and resources available to help you with the many challenges you may be dealing with or will likely deal with in the management of your property, whether it be controlling invasive exotic species, selling timber, providing habitat for wildlife, planning for the future or regenerating a forest stand. Good places to find these resources and contacts are in this newsletter, at our Forest Stewardship workshops and tours (see the events calendar on the last page), and in the Florida Forest Stewardship Web



Inside - Southeastern American Kestrels and private lands
Photo courtesy Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



site linked under the events calendar. You can also link to all the partners mentioned above through that Web site.

Cheers and Best Wishes,
Chris Demers, Editor

New Reporting Rules for Lump-Sum Timber Sales

New rules for reporting of lump-sum timber sales went into effect on May 28, 2009. TD 9450 outlines the changes to Treasury Regulations §1.6045-4. This section is amended to require purchasers of standing timber in a lump-sum transaction to report the sale or exchange of the timber to the IRS using **IRS Form 1099-S** (Proceeds from Real Estate Transactions) and to provide the completed form to the seller. The Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 6045(e)(2) now requires the issuance of this informational form to timber sellers due to the amendment of paragraphs (b)(2)(i)(E), (b)(2)(ii) and (c) (2)(i) of the treasury regulation section 1.6045-4 for sales or exchanges of standing timber for lump-sum payments completed after May 28, 2009. **The Form 1099-S is to be provided to the seller by January 31 of the year following the sale and to IRS.**

Example: Yellow Pine hires a consulting forester to cruise and conduct a lump-sum sale by sealed bid of 50 acres of timber. The successful buyer bid \$200,000 for the timber. The closing date (timber deed executed and delivered) occurs on June 29, 2009, and a check for \$200,000 is delivered to the seller on the same date. The successful **buyer must now issue an IRS Form 1099-S to Yellow Pine by January 31, 2010.** The date of June 29, 2009, is placed in Box 1 and the amount of \$200,000 goes in Box 2. The description of the timber goes in Box 3 and relevant details for Filer and Transferor are placed in the appropriate boxes.

See http://www.irs.gov/irb/2009-24_IRB/ar06.html for more information.

Source:

van der Hovoen, G. 2009. New Reporting Rules for Lump Sum Timber Sales. June 1 Bulletin, North Carolina Coop. Ext. Serv. 1p. (<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/pdf/LumpSumTimberSales.pdf>)

Southeastern American Kestrels Need Your Help

By Karl Miller and Jason Martin,
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission

The southeastern American kestrel is a non-migratory falcon found in open pinelands, sandhills, prairies, and pastures in Florida and the southeastern U.S. High-quality kestrel habitat includes both suitable nesting sites -- primarily cavities excavated by woodpeckers in large dead trees -- and open areas where the birds can see and capture their prey.

The southeastern American kestrel is listed as threatened in Florida due to the loss of nesting and foraging habitat. Our resident kestrel population has declined because of pinelands converted to improved pasture, cropland or other use; removal of standing dead trees from fields and forests and habitat modifications caused by fire suppression. Although long-term population trends are unclear, an overall decline has been estimated at greater than 80% over the past 70 years.

Controlled burning can be used to maintain a grassy, open understory and dead tree snags should be preserved to provide nesting sites for kestrels. Nest boxes also can be installed in areas where natural tree cavities are sparse.

You may be able to help the southeastern American kestrel by putting up nest boxes on your property. Nest boxes should be located in relatively open areas, such as sandhills, open pine forests, fields, pastures, and golf courses, where natural cavities are lacking. Nest boxes should be attached at a height of approximately 12-

20 feet above the ground on tree trunks or wooden poles that are anchored firmly in the ground. There should be approximately 100-125 acres of appropriate habitat surrounding each nest box. Note: do not use utility poles without written permission from local power companies.

More information about how to build kestrel nest boxes and where to install them can be found on the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission website. Visit <http://research.myfwc.com/features/> and click on 'Wildlife' then 'Southeastern American Kestrel'.

Nest boxes are readily accepted by kestrels and make an excellent way to quickly improve the wildlife value of your property with minimal effort. Even if your nest boxes are not discovered by kestrels, many other kinds of birds, such as eastern screech owls, eastern bluebirds, and great crested flycatchers can use nest boxes intended for kestrels.

Recently the FWC initiated a kestrel nest box monitoring program in north-central Florida. By coordinating management and monitoring efforts throughout the state, FWC will be able to more accurately determine the current population status and track how southeastern American kestrels respond over time to management efforts.

FWC is focused primarily on public lands, but we recognize that large expanses of potential kestrel habitat occur on private lands in north-central Florida. We are interested in working with landowners who live in Hernando, Citrus, Sumter, Levy, Marion, Gilchrist, Alachua, Suwannee, Columbia, or neighboring counties, and have installed, or plan to install, at least 3-4 kestrel nest boxes on private properties. Contact kestrel@myfwc.com for more information about how your nest boxes can be included in our monitoring program.

Forest landowners are the Focus of Florida Forestry Association's Annual Meeting

By Phil Gornicki, Florida Forestry Association

When the Florida Forestry Association convenes its 2009 Annual Meeting in St. Augustine at the Renaissance in World Golf Village on September 9-10, private landowners will be the focus. The agenda is full of information owners of forested lands need to know and understand about the current economy and getting the most out of forest ownership.

Participants will see why timber is still one of your best investments, learn how to maximize forest value by selling carbon credits, sharpen estate planning goals from lessons learned from a forest landowner, learn how to enhance forest value through hunting lease management and find out more about the emerging biomass markets headed to Florida. In addition, an in-depth analysis will be presented by one of the nation's leading economists concerning our nation's economic outlook for the next several years.

Landowners are offered a special registration fee of \$105 to attend one of the two days: September 9 or September 10. Both will be special landowner days with plenty of timely information and the chance to attend the forestry trade show, the largest of its kind in Florida. For information visit www.floridaforest.org/conference.php or call the Association office at (850) 222-5646.

Landscaping Mulches – A Potential Fire Problem?

By Alan Long, Professor, UF-IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation

Whether you live on your forest property, in the wildland-urban interface, or

downtown, one of our favorite forest products may be lurking around your back door waiting to light up. Pine straw, pine bark nuggets and shredded wood (cypress or yard waste) are used throughout the Southeast for a number of important landscaping functions. They retain soil moisture (and reduce irrigation), reduce erosion, add organic matter to the soil, and enhance aesthetic appeal. Across most landscape conditions, mulches provide these benefits with no further problem. But laid on the ground next to your wood siding or wood deck they represent a potential ignition source for your house should embers from a wildfire or your backyard burn pile, a match, or even a cigarette butt land on the dry mulch surface. Recent research at the University of Florida indicated that under dry conditions, such as we had early last spring, pine straw is particularly flammable and can produce long flames and high temperatures capable of igniting other flammable materials (such as wood) or melting vinyl siding. Pine bark and shredded wood are more difficult to ignite, but once started they can smolder for long periods of time and produce sufficient heat to cause the same types of effects.

How can you reduce this potential problem without giving up all the benefits? Keep the organic mulches in most places, EXCEPT within three to five feet of your wood or vinyl structural surfaces. Borders of gravel, cinder rock or other nonflammable materials should be used immediately adjacent to, or under, flammable exterior features.

For more information on protecting your home in fire prone areas, visit <http://fireinflorida.com>, InterfaceSouth and the wildfire risk assessment guide (http://www.interfacesouth.org/products/wildfire_ra.html), or the Florida Division of Forestry Website <http://www.fl-dof.com/wildfire/index.html>.

Recent Stewardship-related Publications Produced by the University of Florida

Where There's Fire, There's Smoke: Air Quality and Prescribed burning in Florida

Revised. FOR-62, a 5-page illustrated fact sheet by Martha C. Monroe, Adam C. Watts, and Leda N. Kobziar, provides background information on air quality, the effects of smoke on human health and safety, and regulations concerning the use of prescribed fires, smoke and strategies for protecting air quality. Published by the UF School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC), February 2009.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR058>

Wood to Energy: Use of the Forest Biomass for Wood Pellets

FOR-207, a 4-page illustrated fact sheet by Marian Marinescu and Todd Bush, is part of the Wood to Energy series. It introduces the use of wood pellets as a renewable energy source, current and new feedstock sources, feasibility and research needs. Published by the SFRC, February 2009. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR269>

Ownership Succession: Plan Now for the Future of Your Land

FOR-212, a 4-page fact sheet by Chris Demers, outlines 8 steps for forestland owners to set up a smooth transition between themselves and the future owners of their property. Published by SFRC, March 2009.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR274>

Economic Contributions of Florida's Agricultural, Natural Resource, and Food and Kindred Product Manufacturing, Distribution, and Service Industries in 2009

FE800, a 28-page illustrated report by Alan W. Hodges and Mohammad Rahmani, provides estimates of the agricultural, natural resource, and food and related product manufacturing, distribution, and service industries' economic contributions to Florida in 2007, updating a previous study for 2006. Published by the UF Dept. of Food and Resource Economics, April 2009. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FE800>

Biology and Control of Japanese Climbing Fern (*Lygodium japonicum*)

FOR-218, a 7-page illustrated fact sheet by Patrick J. Minogue, Stella Jones, Kimberly K. Bohn, and Rick L. Williams,

describes invasive exotic vine which is widespread in damp areas in north and West Florida, its biology and control measures. Published by SFRC, May 2009. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR280>

Got Invasives? Get Help! FOR-223, a 2-page fact sheet by Benjamin Koubek and Chris Demers, describes the FloridaInvasives.org Web site and how it can help landowners and land managers locate valuable technical and financial assistance programs to prevent or control invasive exotic species problems. Published by SFRC, June 2009. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR285>

Thanks 2008-2009 Florida Forest Stewardship Program Sponsors:

Many THANKS to these businesses/organizations for their support of this year's Forest Stewardship Program events:

Blanton's Longleaf Container Nursery, Environmental Services Inc., F&W Forestry Services, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida, Florida Farm Bureau, Florida Forestry Association, Forestland Management, Green Circle Bio Energy, International Forest Company, and Southern Forestry Consultants.

If your business or organization is interested in supporting Florida's Forest Stewardship Program events in 2009-2010, contact Chris Demers, cdemers@ufl.edu or (352) 846-2375.

From the Stump

I hear foresters complain of no business, no clients, no advancement and forestry being a profession of little money. I can see how that could be. Few foresters promote themselves to the general public. Fewer still are visible in the political realm where they are needed but reluctant to stick their nose. Forestry organizations seem to do things under cover, in private, and not involve the profession, only the members. Even foresters don't have the benefit of knowing where their organizations

stand, only what the headlines are of the actions. It looks to me like forestry news could be found in the newspaper, written by a prudent reporter who avoids editorializing.

Who promotes forestry? Why aren't foresters, who complain of no customers, not out in the public view, shaking hands, educating the public, standing between a tree-growing public and a revenue-seeking tax man? Who organizes the land owners who don't know that they need to be organized? Why are seminars held in the middle of the week, one hundred miles away (requiring hotel rooms) and costing as much as a course at the University? Why are small landowners the last in a long chain to find out about tree diseases, silviculture programs, invasive plants and the fight to get rid of them? Why aren't foresters knocking on the doors of the small landowner to get them interested in the management of their land? Opportunities abound. There are neighborhood watch meetings, gatherings of local church groups, schools begging for curriculum and newspapers, always looking for a story.

Why is it left to the small landowner to discover for him or herself that he or she is a tree farmer? Help and guidelines, if available at all, are years in the coming when he knows only one destination of his holdings, development. Perhaps it is because the developers knock on his door and create their own market.

Tom Cadenhead
Jacksonville, FL

Want to step up to the Stump? We welcome your comments, questions, rant or all of the above. Send to cdemers@ufl.edu and write "stump" in the subject line. Letters should pertain to landowner or natural resources issues and be no more than 300 words in length. Letters may be edited for length and/or clarification. Please keep it civil – no personal attacks will be published.



Congratulations Certified Forest Stewards and Tree Farmers!



Dr. John Ruis, Nassau County School Board, Forest Stewards, Nassau County; pictured with David Holly (DOF), and Jennifer Montgomery (Jowett & Wood Consultants)



Brenda and Billy Sunday, Forest Stewards, Gadsden County



Richard Fish, Forest Steward and Tree Farmer, Nassau County



Freddie McIntosh (R), Forest Steward, Holmes County; pictured with Mike Mathis (DOF)

Not shown:

Lane Armstrong
Forest Steward, Escambia County

Lula Bittle
Tree Farmer, Lafayette County
Broom Sage Hunting Preserve
Tree Farmers, Nassau County
Colon Land

Tree Farmers, Lafayette County
Cornelia A. Downs

Tree Farmer, Bay County
Craig Gillikin & Joanne Duffy
Forest Stewards, Gilchrist County
Glen A. Hartzog

Forest Steward, Bay County
Grady and Honor Hartzog
Forest Stewards, Gilchrist County

Donald & Margaret Hurst
Tree Farmers, Lafayette County

Kay Jones
Tree Farmer, Gilchrist County

Rhonda Largin Jones
Tree Farmer, Nassau County



Dr. Donald & Betsy Burch (center holding sign and plaque), Forest Stewards, being recognized at the Suwannee County Conservation Districts Annual Award banquet for Outstanding Forest Management

Not Shown:

BC & Barbara McCray
Tree Farmers, Lafayette County
David McPhaul
Forest Steward, Gadsden County
Roy & Margaret Sprague
Forest Stewards, Gilchrist County

Not Shown:

Toledo Manufacturing, Inc.
Tree Farmers, Nassau County
Clifford S. Varnadoe
Forest Steward, Bay County

More information about these programs is on-line:

Forest Stewardship Program: http://www.fl-dof.com/forest_management/cfa_steward_index.html

Tree Farm: http://www.floridaforest.org/tree_farm.php



Property Tour

Stewardship Property of Bern and Jan Hadden Smith Madison County, FL

Date: *Tuesday, September 15, 2009; meet and greet at 9:00 AM ET.
Program begins promptly at 9:30.*

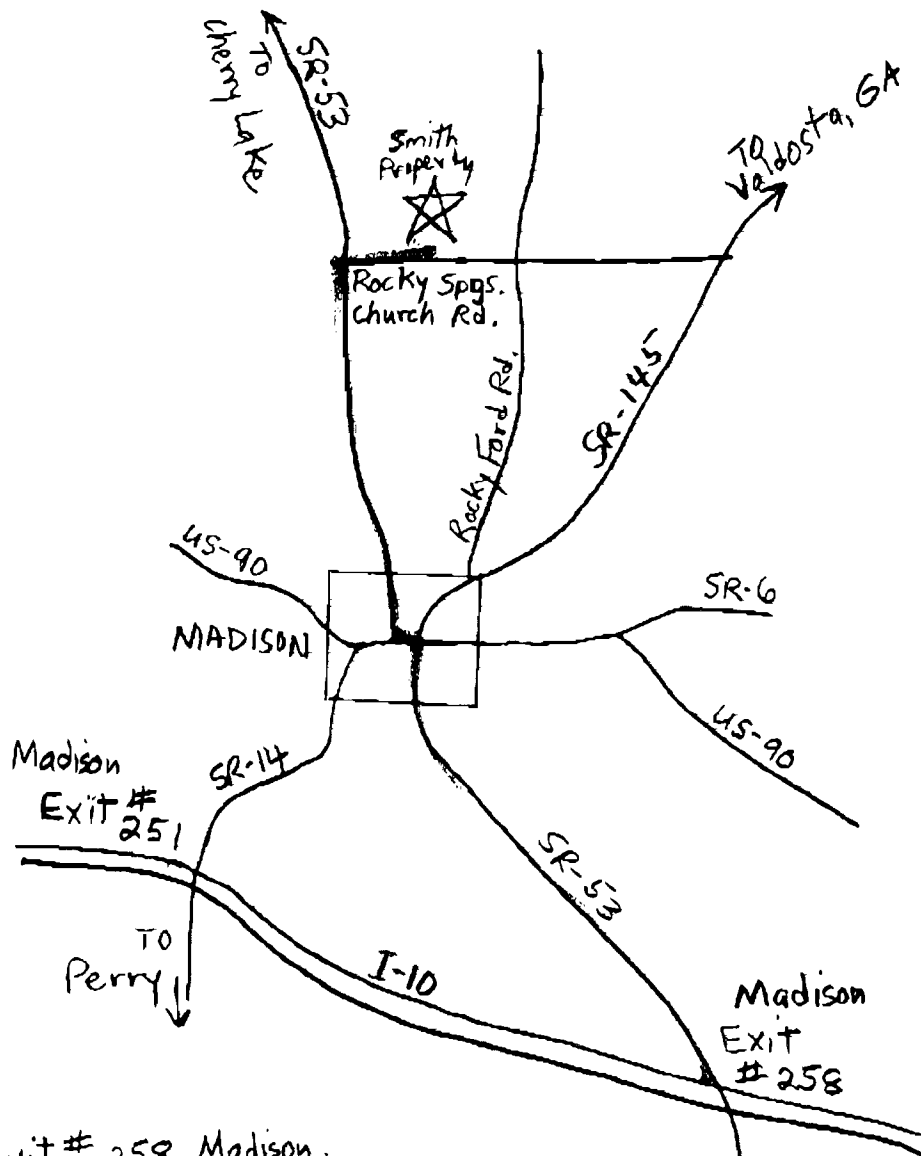
Tour: The Smith tract, 250 acres, is managed for hay production (perennial peanut), forest products (pine straw, pulpwood, saw timber and Christmas trees), wildlife (white-tailed deer, wild turkey, bob-white quail and duck), and recreation (hunting and fishing). An adjacent 160-acre tract owned by Dr. E.E. Hadden, Jr. MD is managed in conjunction for timber production and hunting. The land has been in the Hadden Family since 1843 and is registered as a Century Pioneer Family Farm. The old home site has an open, hand-dug well (circa 1800s), a windmill and well (circa 1937) and a ¼-acre wildflower plot. Highly erodible cropland was converted to hay and pine under the Conservation Reserve Program. Pines were established under the former Forestry Incentive Program, and thinning conducted under the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program. Cost-share funds from the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program were used to create forest openings, establish wildlife food plots, nest boxes, control invasive species (mimosa, chinaberry and Japanese climbing fern), manage undesirable hardwoods, and improve wildlife habitat with prescribed burning.

Register: A sponsored lunch will be served on-site after the tour, sponsors TBA. This program is free but you must preregister. **Call the Madison County Extension Office at (850) 973-4138 to register. Attendance will be limited so please register soon!** Directions are on the back of this announcement. Please share with others who may be interested. Contact Chris Demers, (352) 846-2375, cdemers@ufl.edu, with questions about this or other Forest Stewardship Program events.



Funding for Florida's Forest Stewardship Program is provided by the USDA Forest Service through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry and a grant from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Directions to Bern and Jan Hadden-Smith Property



- I-10 to Exit # 258 Madison.
- North on SR-53 approx. 5mi to Madison US-90.
- left on US-90 approx. 0.3 mi. to SR-53
- right on SR-53 and go North 4.5 miles to Rocky Spgs Church Rd.
- turn right on Rocky Spring Church Rd.
go east 0.8 mile to farm gate on left (north).



Property Tour

Turkey Hill Farm, Stewardship Property of
Herman Holly and Louise Divine
Leon County, FL

Date: *Thursday, October 29, 2009; sign in, meet and greet at 9:00 AM ET.*

Tour: Herman Holley and Louise Divine bought their farm in January 1999 and say one of the first and smartest things they did was join the Forest Stewardship Program. Since then they have been working and expanding on the initial plan. The farm is 89 acres with several distinct ecosystems. There are a little less than 20 acres of planted loblolly pine about 18-20 years old. Much of the farm is in second growth hardwoods and "water features". Much to their surprise they are now making a living as organic farmers, growing a wide variety of seasonal produce for weekly markets and a small community supported agriculture (CSA) cooperative. They have planted a small citrus grove and are expanding their fig orchard and other fruit trees. For a preview of Turkey Hill farm, see their feature at <http://www.localharvest.org/farms/M4181>.



Register: A sponsored lunch will be served on-site after the tour, sponsors TBA. This program is free but you must preregister. **Contact Genice Harris at the Leon County Extension Office at (850) 606-5202, genicer@leoncountyfl.gov to register. *Attendance will be limited so please register soon!* Directions are on the back of this announcement. Please share with others who may be interested. Contact Chris Demers, (352) 846-2375, cdemers@ufl.edu, with questions about this or other Forest Stewardship Program events.**



Funding for Florida's Forest Stewardship Program is provided by the USDA Forest Service through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry and a grant from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Directions to Turkey Hill Farm
3546 Baum Road, Miccosukee, FL 32309

From I-10, Westbound: Exit 217, Lloyd, SR 59:

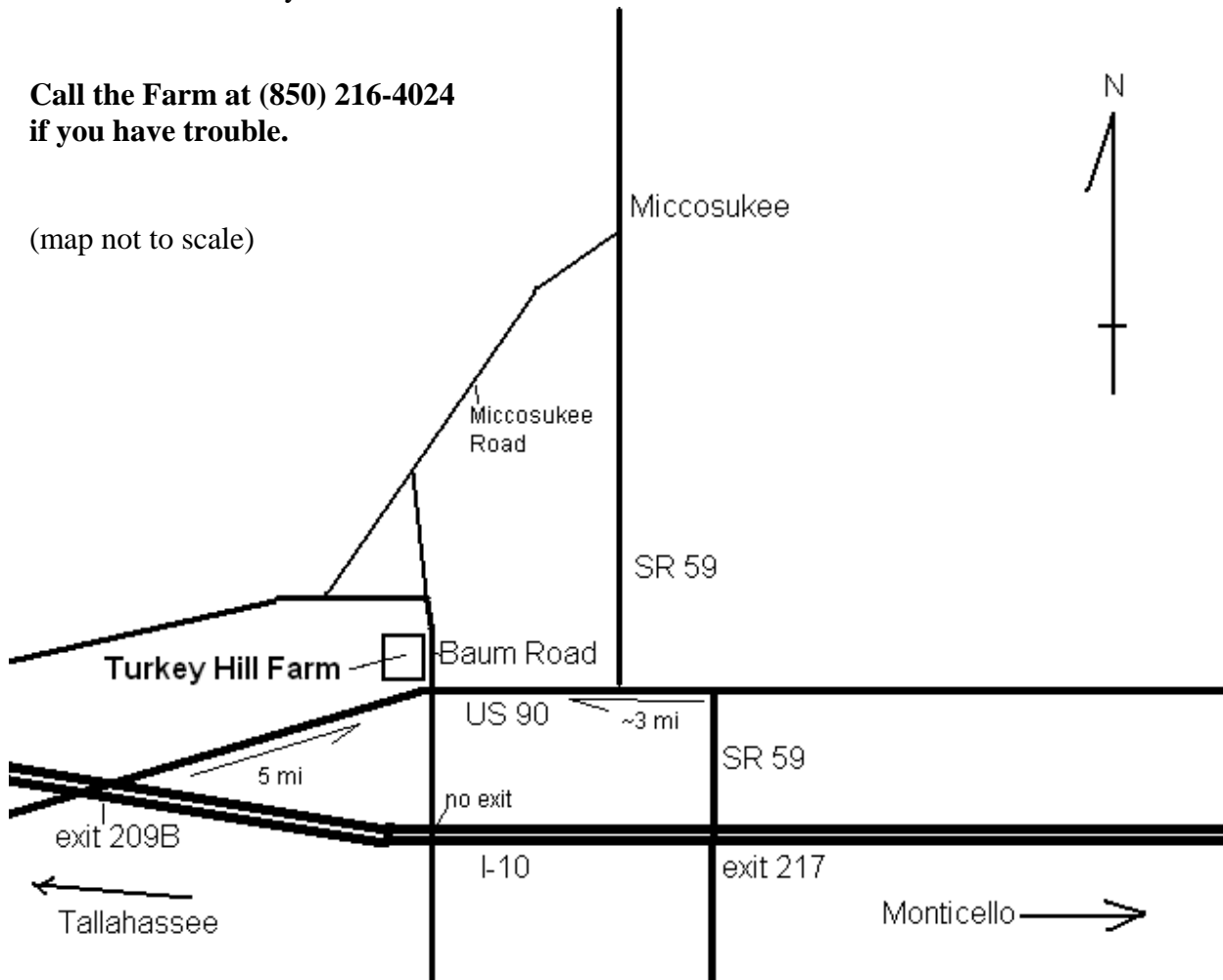
- North on SR 59 to US 90
- turn West on US 90 (toward Tallahassee), go about 3 miles
- Right on Baum Road (Mahan Auto Repair on corner)
- 1/4 mile to driveway on left

From 1-10 Eastbound, Exit 209B, Tallahassee, US Hwy 90:

- East on US 90 (toward Monticello) exactly 5 miles from I-10 overpass
- Left on Baum Road (Mahan Auto Repair on corner)
- 1/4 mile to driveway on left

**Call the Farm at (850) 216-4024
if you have trouble.**

(map not to scale)



Timber Price Update

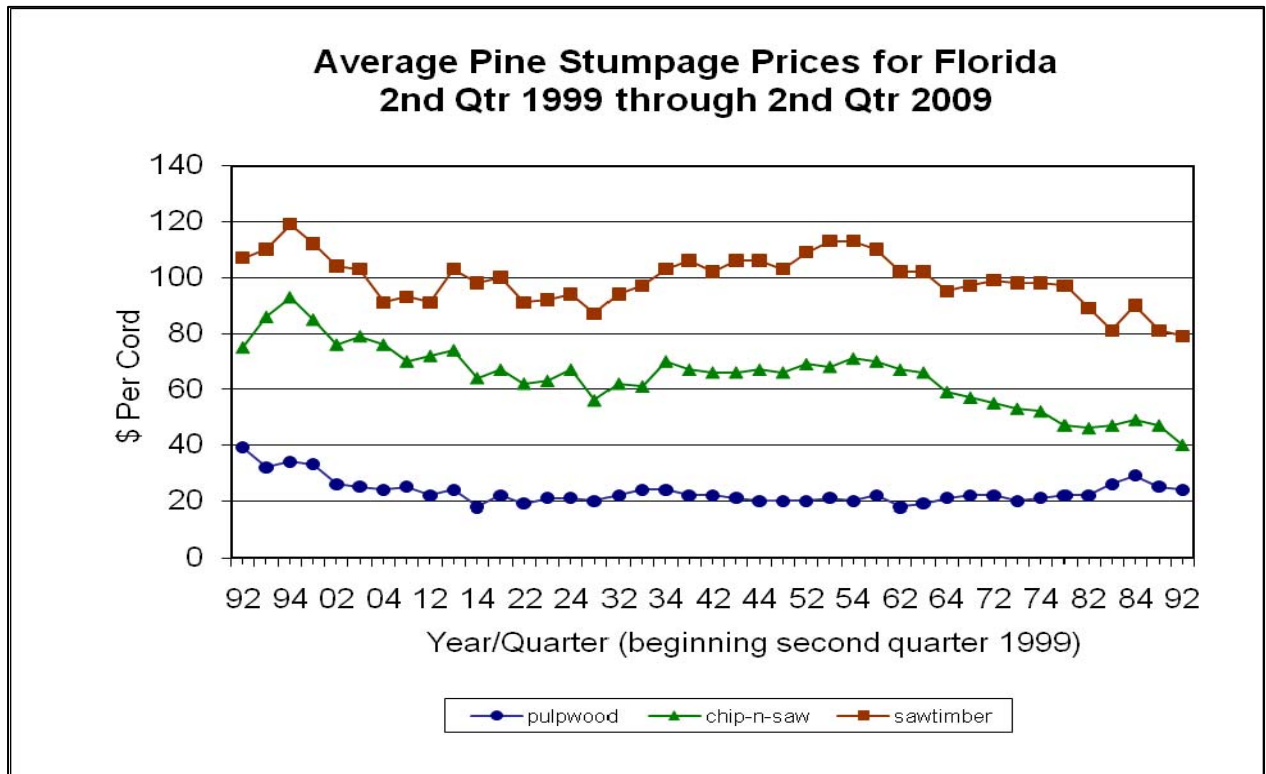
The timber pricing information below is useful for observing trends over time, but does not necessarily reflect current conditions at a particular location. Landowners considering a timber sale are advised to solicit the services of a consulting forester to obtain current local market conditions. Note that price ranges per ton for each product are also included.

Stumpage price ranges reported across Florida in the **2nd Quarter 2009** Timber Mart-South (TMS) report were:

- Pine pulpwood: \$20 - \$33/cord (\$7 - \$12/ton), ↓ (from average 1st Quarter 2009 prices)
- Pine C-N-S: \$34 - \$49/cord (\$13 - \$18/ton), ↓
- Pine sawtimber: \$63 - \$102/cord (\$24 - \$38/ton), ↓
- Pine plylogs: \$61 - \$86/cord (\$22 - \$32/ton), ↓
- Pine power poles: \$117 - \$154/cord (\$44 - \$58/ton), ↓
- Hardwood pulpwood: \$10 - \$21/cord (\$3 - \$7/ton), ↓

Trend Report

Average stumpage prices for all major timber products in Florida, and the Southeast region, were down for the second straight quarter. Pine sawtimber prices are the lowest since 1993 and chip-n-saw prices are the lowest since 1991. Market indicators for the major products are improving slightly but the economy is still in a contracting state. Unless conditions improve, lumber production in 2009 will be the lowest since 1985 and down over 40 percent from 2005, the peak year.



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UPCOMING EVENTS	
Date	Event, Location, Contacts
August 21	<i>FL/GA Game Management Field Update: Dove and Waterfowl Management, Pinckney Hill Plantation, Ashville, FL.</i> Contact Dr. Bill Giuliano at (352) 846-0575, docg@ufl.edu , http://www.wec.ufl.edu/wildlifeupdates/ for more info on this and all Field Updates below.
September 9-10	<i>Florida Forestry Association 2009 Annual Meeting, Renaissance at World Golf Village, St. Augustine, FL.</i> Call (850) 222-5646 for more information.
September 11	<i>FL/GA Game Management Field Update: Sportfish Pond Management, Camp Piney Woods, Thomas County, GA..</i>
September 15	<i>Forest Stewardship Property Tour, property of Bern and Jan Hadden Smith, Madison County.</i> Announcement in this issue. Call the Madison County Extension Office at (850) 973-4138 to register.
September 22-24	<i>Southeast Herbicide Applicator Conference, Edgewater Beach Resort, Panama City, FL 32407; earn up to 12 CEUs!!</i> See http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/sehac/ for details.
September 25	<i>FL/GA Game Management Field Update: White-tailed Deer Management, Myrtlewood Plantation, Thomas County, GA.</i>
October 9	<i>FL/GA Game Management Field Update: Wild Turkey Management, Osceola Plantation, Thomas County, GA.</i>
October 16	<i>FL/GA Game Management Field Update: Hunting Dog and Human First Aid, Remington EMS, Thomasville, GA..</i>
October 22	<i>FWC Sandhill Management Workshop, Florida Center for Wildfire and Forest Resources Management Training, 24059 Childs Road, Brooksville, FL 34601.</i>
October 29	<i>Forest Stewardship Property Tour, Turkey Hill Farm, property of Louis Divine and Herman Holley, Leon County.</i> Announcement in this issue. Contact Genice Harris at the Leon County Extension Office at (850) 606-5202, genicer@leoncountyfl.gov to register.

For more information and events about Florida's Forest Stewardship Program and forest management visit:
www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida_forestry_information/index.html

The Florida Forest Steward is a University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Florida Division of Forestry and Florida Tree Farm joint project:

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