

# Managing Forests Sustainably:

## *Ecological Forestry in the Southeastern Coastal Plain*

March 22-25, 2009

Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center  
Newton, Georgia

Instructors: Jerry Franklin, Steve Jack, Bob Mitchell, Leon Neel

Concepts of ecological forestry, while of recent interest in the forestry and ecological literature, have been practiced for quite some time in the southeastern US, most notably by Herbert Stoddard beginning in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and adapted through time by Leon Neel. However, few understand the scientific underpinnings and ecological principles that guide this system of management. This in part has been due to the lack of learning opportunities that could guide managers in the application of these concepts.

This three-day course will cover the basic principles of ecological forestry in pine grasslands of the southeastern coastal plain of the United States. These forests are uniquely suited to conserve ecological values while providing economic and recreational benefits. Forest management based on the maintenance of key ecological processes and patterns of natural disturbance offers a compelling alternative to traditional silviculture practices of the region for many landowners' objectives. Participants will learn principles of this approach to management that can be applied to a range of land in all of its variation.

The course will focus on the following issues from a landscape and stand level:

- Maintaining variation in forest structure through Stoddard/Neel single tree selection silviculture
- Managing for multiple age classes, structural complexity, and conservation values based on patterns of natural disturbance
- Incorporating time as an ecological factor in forest management
- Role of restoration in ecological forestry
- Management that integrates prescribed fire with silviculture to sustain pine forests in perpetuity

## About the Instructors

### **Dr. Jerry Franklin**

Dr. Jerry Franklin is Professor of Ecosystem Analysis in the College of Forest Resources, University of Washington, Seattle. He is a senior consultant for Interforest, LLC. Previously, he was Chief Plant Ecologist, USDA Forest Service, and Professor of Forest Science and Botany at Oregon State University. He also served as Director of the Ecosystem Studies Program of the National Science Foundation. He is one of the pioneers of forest ecosystem research, with specializations in structure and function of natural forest ecosystems; successional processes following catastrophic disturbances; effects of changing environmental conditions on forest processes; application of ecological principles to the management of natural resources; and theory and practical applications of landscape ecology. He is a past president of the Ecological Society of America and has served on the Board of Governors of the Nature Conservancy. He holds the Barrington Moore Award for outstanding achievement in forest research from the Society of American Foresters, as well as numerous other awards. He has served on the Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team, the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project, and the American Indian Forestry Management Assessment Team. His research is documented in nearly 300 publications.

### **Dr. Steve Jack**

Dr. Steve Jack is Conservation Ecologist for the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway, a 29,000-acre preserve with extensive longleaf pine forests, near Newton, GA. In this position Steve provides an interface between the research and resource management staffs, and conducts applied research on conservation-oriented management of longleaf pine for economic and wildlife objectives. A particular focus of his work is the application and adaptation of the Stoddard-Neel approach, a management technique that utilizes uneven-aged management to focus on long-term stewardship of the forest ecosystem, to pine-grassland forests of the coastal plain. Prior to working at the Jones Center he held positions at Utah State and Texas A&M Universities.

### **Dr. Robert J. Mitchell**

Dr. Robert J. Mitchell is a Scientist at the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway, a 29,000-acre preserve with extensive longleaf pine forests near Newton, GA. Formerly, he was an associate professor at the School of Forestry at Auburn University serving as an Extension Specialist and teaching courses in Tree Physiology, and Competition in Pine Forests of Southeastern U.S. His research interests include Ecophysiology and Silviculture. At the Jones Center his research is focused on the ecology, management, and conservation of Longleaf Pine Grasslands. He has published more than 80 referred journal articles, and has developed numerous articles and brochures for landowners and forest managers.

## Mr. Leon Neel

Mr. Leon Neel is a forest consultant from Thomasville, Georgia. Mr. Neel began working with the eminent wildlife biologist Herbert Stoddard in 1950 and their firm eventually managed approximately 250,000 acres of pine grasslands in south Georgia and north Florida. Over the years, Mr. Stoddard and Mr. Neel developed and refined a system of management renowned for its ability to balance the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem function, generation of income from timber management, and recreational and aesthetic values.

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## Tentative Agenda

### Sunday March 22

Afternoon/Evening arrivals and check in  
6:00 Opening social  
6:30 Dinner

### Monday March 23

7:30 Breakfast  
8:00 Principles of Ecological Forestry  
Natural History of Coastal Plain  
Ecosystems  
10:00 Break  
10:15 Overview of Stoddard-Neel  
Silvicultural System  
11:00 Field Tour Old Growth Longleaf  
Pine Thomasville, GA

- Greenwood Reference Stand
- Working Forests

6:00 Social  
6:30 Dinner  
7:30 Participant Case Studies

### Tuesday March 24

7:00 Breakfast  
8:00 Stoddard - Neel system (cont.)  
9:30 Ichauway Demo Forest Field Tour  
11:00 Economics of Ecological Forestry  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Field Exercise - Timber Marking  
6:00 Social  
6:30 Dinner  
7:30 Participant Case Studies

### Wednesday March 25

7:00 Breakfast  
8:00 Ichauway Field Tour

- Hardwood Removal
- Plantation Conversion
- Harvest Operations

12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Wrap Up  
2:00 Departure

# Ecological Forestry Registration Form

## March 22-25, 2009

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: \$400 includes lodging, meals, onsite transportation, and course materials. Registration may be paid by check or agency/organization purchase order.

Send completed registration form and payment to:

Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center

Attn: Jessica McCorvey

Rt. 2, Box 2324

Newton, GA 39870-9651

229-734-4706

Fax 229-734-6650

Questions? Contact Kevin McIntyre at 229-734-4706 or [kevin.mcintyre@jonesctr.org](mailto:kevin.mcintyre@jonesctr.org) OR contact Jessica McCorvey at 229-734-4706 or [jessica.mccorvey@jonesctr.org](mailto:jessica.mccorvey@jonesctr.org)

# SESSION INFORMATION

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**Location:** The course will be held at the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway near Newton, GA, approximately 45 minutes south of Albany GA or 75 minutes north of Tallahassee, FL. Ichauway is approximately 29,600 acres and represents one of the best remaining examples of the longleaf pine wiregrass ecosystem. One day will be spent visiting other longleaf sites in the Thomasville, GA area.

**Overnight Lodging and Meals:** Overnight lodging and meals will be provided at the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center as part of your registration fee. Additional information will be provided upon confirmation of registration.

**Field Equipment:** Participants should bring field clothing, including rain gear, and sturdy footwear. Daytime temperatures range from low 60's to high 70's, nights from low 40's to high 50's.

**Registration Fee:** The registration fee is \$400 (course fee \$220 and lodging/meals \$180) which includes onsite field transportation, course notebook of instructor materials, lodging (nights of March 22, 23, and 24) meals (supper March 22 through lunch March 25). Limited funding assistance is available for non-profit organization employees.

**CFE credits:** Arrangements are being made to provide Continuing Forestry Education credits for this course. Please contact us for further details.

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## Registration Managers:

The Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center  
Route 2, Box 2324  
Newton, GA 39870-9651  
Phone: 229-734-4706  
Fax: 229-734-6650  
[www.jonesctr.org](http://www.jonesctr.org)