

**Longleaf Alliance and Forest Guild
2008 Joint Meeting Program**

Forestry in a Changing World: New Challenges and Opportunities

(DRAFT- Subject to Change)

Tuesday October 28, 2008

3:00-7:00 pm **Registration Open**

5:00-7:00 pm **Poster Set-up and Refreshments**

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

7:30 am **Registration Opens**

8:30 am **Welcome and Introduction to Longleaf Alliance Meeting**

- Dean Gjerstad (Longleaf Alliance) and Howard Gross (Forest Guild)

9:00 am **State of the Alliance**

- Rhett Johnson (Longleaf Alliance)

9:30 am **Plenary**

- **E.O. Wilson.** Dr. Wilson is Pellegrino University Research Professor in Entomology for the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University and a world renowned ecologist, theorist, and author.

10:30 am **Break**

10:45 am **Longleaf Conservation Efforts in Florida**

- Vernon Compton (Nature Conservancy Florida)
- M.C. Davis (Nokuse Plantation)

11:30 am **Unveiling of the First Draft of the Longleaf Regional Restoration Plan**

- Lark Hayes (Coordinator, Regional Working Group for America's Longleaf)
- Ken Arney (USFS Deputy Regional Forester for Region 8)

- Bill Ross (Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources)

12:00 pm

Lunch - Provided

1:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

1. **New Opportunities for Landowners in Longleaf Conservation and Outreach.** An overview of available cost-share programs and a look at new markets.
2. **Lessons Learned from Long-term Research Sites.** An overview of the longleaf research at Escambia Experimental Forest and Tall Timbers Research Station.
3. **Role of Fire in Longleaf Ecosystems.** This session will explore reintroduction of fire in older stands, burning young stands, and meeting varying objectives with prescribed fire.

3:00 pm

Break

3:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

1. **Understory Restoration Protocols.** An update on the state of the science.
2. **Education and Outreach in Longleaf Conservation and Restoration.** This session will focus on continuing education youth programs, and other initiatives focused on getting longleaf into the mainstream.
3. **New Opportunities for Landowners in Longleaf Conservation.** An overview of available cost-share programs and a look at new markets.
4. **America's Longleaf.** This session is an opportunity to provide feedback and input for the first public draft of the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine.

5:30 – 7:30 pm

Reception with Poster Presentations

7:30 pm

Registration Closes

7:30 pm

Dinner on Own

Thursday, October 30, 2008 (times are approximate)

(Due to our early departure, a bag breakfast will be provided on the bus @ 7:45 for all participants.)

- 7:00 am **Welcome to Forest Guild Members and Field Tour Logistical Information**
- Dean Gjerstad (Longleaf Alliance) and Howard Gross (Forest Guild)
- 7:45 am **Busses Depart on Field Tours – 2 Concurrent Tours: Eglin Air Force Base and Nokuse Plantation**
- **Briar Creek, Eglin Air Force Base** - Speaker stations will showcase the herbaceous layer; seepage slope with pitcher plants; species density; and a red-cockaded woodpecker active cluster with cavity trees.
 - **Nokuse Plantation** - This privately owned conservation initiative will highlight public-private partnerships and conservation easements. There will also be speaker stations addressing ecotonal restoration, groundcover restoration, gopher tortoise habitat banking, and uneven aged management of southern pines.
- 11:30-2:10 pm **Tours Convene for Lunch at White Point, Eglin Air Force Base**
- **White Point, Eglin AFB** - A walking loop, with several speaker stations set up through what could be the last remaining estuarine (coastal) longleaf old-growth stands. Some of the trees are 450+ years old. Stations topics include: vegetation uniqueness of this location; hurricanes, salt water incursion, wind firmness of longleaf; cone and seed collection; fire prescriptions; dendrology, age, natural regeneration; and wildland urban interface and its challenges. There will also be experimental biomass processing equipment on site and a history of naval stores and turpentine production.
- 2:10 pm **Tours Continue** - Groups visit sites they didn't see in the morning
- Approx 6:00 pm **Buses Return**
- 7:00 -10:00 pm **Florida Luau with Live Music and Lots of Great Grilled Food**

Friday, October 31, 2008

- 7:00 am **Student-Mentor Breakfast** – At Another Broken Egg Restaurant in the village.
- 8:30 am **Conservation of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem and Other Southern Grasslands**
- **Reed Noss.** Dr. Noss directs the SPICE (Science and Planning in Conservation Ecology) lab at the University of Central Florida, which concentrates on basic and applied problems in biodiversity conservation. He is past president of the Society for Conservation Biology, former editor of the journal Conservation Biology, and a co-founder of The Wildlands Project.
- 9:30 am **Ivory-billed Woodpecker Update**
- **Geoff Hill.** Dr. Hill is the Scharnagel Professor of Ornithology at Auburn University and an Ivory-billed Woodpecker sleuth extraordinaire. He will present the latest evidence supporting the existence of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.
- 10:15 am **Break**
- 10:30 am **Climate Change Plenary Session**
- How do we manage in the face of uncertainty? This session will focus on how climate change is affecting ecosystems, what actions are being taken on the ground, and how to address the challenges of building forest resistance in the context of climate change. Speakers invited include Sam Pearsall (The Nature Conservancy), Larry Davenport (Samford University) and Linda Brett (USFS).

Longleaf Alliance Conference Adjourns

- 12:30 pm **Lunch – Provided for Forest Guild Meeting Attendees**
- **Forest Guild Regional Gatherings** - Have lunch with others in your region and learn Guild members are up to in your area.
- 2:00 pm **Concurrent Sessions**
1. **Emerging Biomass Markets in the South** -There has been a recent explosion of large scale biomass projects across the southeast. Many of these have overlapping procurement zones and are being sited in areas where pulpwood markets already exist for low value wood products. In this section we will explore the feeding of these mills and

what impact that may have on the market and the ecosystem. Invited guests include Bill Waller (Green Circle Energy), Ron Barmore (Range Fuels), Jeremiah Hazwell (Southern Company Invited) and Will McDow, (Environmental Defense Fund).

- 2. The Silvics of Sequestration** - How can managers work on the ground to maximize the sequestration potential in their forests? In this session we will look at new research on sequestration and examples from across the country of how foresters are incorporating carbon into their management. Invited speakers include: Bill Wilkinson (Baldwin, Blomstrom, Wilkinson and Associates), David Ray (Tall Timbers), Kevin Robertson (Tall Timbers), and Kevin Hiers (Jones Ecological Center).

3:45 pm

Break

4:00 pm

Forest Guild Introduction Circles

- A Forest Guild tradition and opportunity to introduce yourself and let others know why you do what you do.

5:30 pm

Dinner on Own

7:30 pm

Forest Guild Members Meeting – open to all

Saturday, November 1, 2008

7:00 am

Forest Guild Women’s Circle Breakfast - At Another Broken Egg Restaurant in the village.

8:30 am

Concurrent Sessions

- 1. Forest Insects and Climate Change** - Discuss the possible repercussions of climate change on populations and effects of several forest pests including the southern pine bark beetles, hemlock wooly adelgid, and the eastern oak Borer. Speakers include Alexander Evans (Forest Guild), Andy Londo (Mississippi State University), John Riggins (Mississippi State University).
- 2. Guest and Undocumented Forestry Workers** - Learn about the issues facing migrant forestry workers managing our nation’s forests and find out about what can be done to enforce existing laws and improve working conditions for these workers. Invited speakers

include Mike DeBonis (Forest Guild) and Andrew Turner (Southern Poverty Law Center).

10:00 am

Break

10:15 am

Concurrent Sessions

1. **Carbon Regulation and Trading** - Learn about the nuts and bolts of carbon sequestration and hear about where the federal legislation may be leading us. Discussion of both market trading of credits and government led regulation. Invited guests include Scott Schouse (Mountain Association for Community Economic Development), Bob Perschel (Forest Guild).
2. **Biomass Harvesting and Technology** - Explore new technologies in biomass harvesting with example from across the country of how people are getting this new product to market. Case studies and experimental equipment will be featured with some cost analysis. Zander Evans (Forest Guild), Phillip Steele (Mississippi State University), and Steve Taylor (Auburn University).

12:00 pm

Lunch on Own

1:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

3. **Emerging Local-Scale Biomass Opportunities** - There is a movement throughout the country to promote small scale biomass opportunities for rural economic development. These projects mainly focus on 10,000-100,000 ton capacity boilers fed from local sources. In this session we will examine some of these projects, and a pilot project focused on how local consulting foresters can participate. Invited speakers include Adam Sherman (Biomass Energy Research Center) and Bob Perschel (Forest Guild).
4.
 - A. **Certification for Small Landowners** –Logistics of FSC certification and how group certification can help landowners improve access to new markets. Alyx Perry (Southern Forest Network).
 - B. **Counting Carbon**- A look at carbon accounting systems and what foresters need to be measuring in the woods when working with the carbon market. Invited speakers include Scott Schouse (Mountain Association for Community Economic Development).

3:00 pm

Break

3:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

1. **Foresters of the Next Generation** - A facilitated question-and-answer and discussion session between students and current natural resources professionals.
2. **Silvicultural Showcase** - A series of presentations by Guild members from across the country on innovative approaches to ecological management in their area. Speakers include:
 - Don Handley (Handley Forestry Services, South Carolina) - "Uneven-aged Management of Southern Yellow Pine. What I've done and why it works."
 - Other Speakers TBA

7:00 pm

Cookout Featuring Locally Grown Meats and Produce on the Amenity Terrace at the Village Inn.

Sunday November 2, 2008

9:00 am - noon

Forest Guild Board of Directors Meeting