
The Florida Forest Steward

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Glancy Family Named as 1997 Stewardship Forest Landowners of the Year

When we think of Florida's forest lands, Dade County usually does not come to mind. Once upon a time, however, Southeast Florida was covered with thousands of acres of what has become known as the *Pine Rocklands Ecosystem*. This community was typified by a scattered overstory of South Florida Slash Pine, and an understory containing a variety of woody and herbaceous plants. Frequent lightning-caused fires maintained this ecosystem, and encouraged the growth of species adapted to the shallow limestone soils and frequent fires.

Unfortunately, agriculture, urban development, the invasion of exotic species, and the lack of prescribed fire have eliminated all but a few small remnants of this community. Because of the effort involved in restoring and maintaining an area of pine rocklands ecosystem, only government land

managers for the most part have undertaken the task. Terry and Barbara Glancy, however, have proceeded undaunted with the restoration of their 15-acre **Pine Ridge Sanctuary** over the past 23 years. Their efforts have earned them the title of *1997 Stewardship Forest Landowners of the Year*.

When the Glancys first purchased the property, only the pine trees were left from the original plant community. A thick jungle of exotic trees and shrubs obscured the native plants and made the area inhospitable for both wildlife and human access. Then the Glancys went to work. They used prescribed fire, spot treatments of herbicide, and their own hand labor to eradicate the unwanted vegetation. By the time we first visited their property in 1991, the restoration was almost complete. Dozens of native plant species had returned; The Nature Conservancy and Florida Native Plant Society were performing research there; and a number of other groups came to visit and marvel at what they saw.

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Unfortunately, Hurricane Andrew caused the Glancys a significant setback. It did not deter them, however. They resumed their prescribed fire and exotic plant eradication regime, and the results were evident when we visited again last year. They lost their most visible species, the pines, but gained several others in return. Some of these plants had not been seen in Dade County for decades. The snags left by the pines now provide habitat for birds and animals. Replanting the pines has involved making holes in the cap rock with a power drill. Talk about persistence!

The regional *Stewardship Forest Landowners of the Year* include Joseph Parell of Washington County, J.C. Winn of Alachua County, and Wayne and Claudia Schumacher of Marion County. Each of these landowners has been actively involved with the management of their forest lands, and deserves recognition for their efforts.

You, or someone you know, may be a good candidate for the *1998 Stewardship Forest Landowner of the Year* award. Your management program does not have to be as unique or extensive as the Glancys, and may emphasize other resource amenities such as timber growth or wildlife habitat. We will be looking for worthy candidates for this award in a few months, so give it some thought.

Workshop Report: Integrating Wildlife Considerations for Your Timber Lands

Last August, workshops on "Integrating Wildlife Considerations for Your Timber Lands" were held in Levy and Jefferson Counties. Jointly sponsored by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the Cooperative Extension Service, and the Forest

Stewardship Program, the workshops focused on forestry practices that promote successful -- and profitable -- management of both timber and wildlife. Each workshop included a visit to a landowner's property and an evening session with several speakers. David Lewis of Southern Forestry Consultants spoke on harvesting options; Bob Simons, a landowner and consultant, spoke on forest regeneration; David Burt and Joe Shiver of Stone Container talked about alternative income opportunities and leases; Clay Olson briefly described shiitake mushroom cultivation; and Chuck McKelvy of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission concluded with a summary address on forestland management options. The following three articles are based on information presented at the workshops.

Integrating Wildlife and Timber Considerations (a summary of talks by David Lewis, Bob Simons and Chuck McKelvy)

When managing forestland for both timber and wildlife, there are inherent tradeoffs. You can't maximize both resources on the same acre at the same time. However, if you are willing to make some minor changes in your management practices, you can provide substantial benefits to wildlife with little impact on overall timber returns.

Forestry practices primarily affect wildlife through their effect on habitat. Simply stated, wildlife habitat is the arrangement of food, water, and cover that animals need to survive. Different wildlife species have different needs and, therefore, require different types of habitat. Habitat requirements for single species may also vary over the course of a year. Additionally, since different plants produce browse and fruit in different seasons, most wildlife species depend on a variety of food