



School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

FEBRUARY 2025



A family watches a prescribed burn at the 2025 Flatwoods Fire and Nature Festival on Feb. 1. Photo by Suzette Cook.

News

Kendrick Haynes joined the SFFGS staff in January as our new Administrative Assistant III. Kendrick will be working closely with Sarah Rushing and Dr. Red Baker in the Director's Office. Welcome, Kendrick!



Dr. Michael Andreu, Associate Professor of Forest Systems, was awarded a 2025 UF/IFAS Staff and Faculty Superior Accomplishment Award in the Sustained Excellence category. The award recognizes outstanding UF staff and faculty for their dedication to their jobs and for going above and beyond to support UF's mission. Congratulations Dr. Andreu!



We're pleased to announce that Amy Abernethy, our Graduate Academic Advisor, won the January Staff Member of the Month Award. Congratulations, Amy!



This year marks 25 years of service to the University of Florida for Dr. Shirley Baker, Professor and Associate Director of the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences program; and Chris Demers, Extension Program Manager and Florida Land Steward Program Manager. Congratulations Chris and Dr. Baker!



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Upcoming Events

Forestry Graduate Student Symposium Friday, March 28

The Forestry Graduate Student Organization (FGSO) is hosting its Graduate Research Symposium in UF's Reitz Union. For more information and to register, [see here](#).

Program Advisory Committee Meetings Thursday, April 3

Advisory Board Meeting Friday, April 4

2025 Spring Celebration Friday, April 4 to Saturday, April 5

Mark your calendars for SFFGS's annual Spring Celebration, to be held at UF's Austin Cary Forest.

2025 Spring Symposium Tuesday, April 15 to Wednesday, April 16

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Spring Symposium co-hosted by SFFGS and the Florida Division of the Society of American Foresters. This year's theme is "Landscape and Working Lands Conservation." For more information and to register, [see here](#). This is a great networking opportunity for students especially!

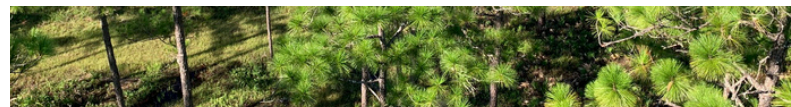


2025 SPRING SYMPOSIUM



APRIL 15-16

LANDSCAPE AND WORKING LANDS CONSERVATION



Recently Started Grants

"Enhancing Local Food Security Through the Farmer-to-Farmer Model as a Rapid Response to the COVID19 Pandemic" – \$27,419 awarded to Dr. Mysha Clarke and Dr. Wendy Lin-Bartels from Florida Atlantic University

"Ex-situ Production of Elkhorn Coral and Long-Spined Sea Urchins for Mission: Iconic Reefs" – \$129,969 awarded to Dr. Josh Patterson from the Florida Aquarium

"Tiered Invasive Plant Management Training Program" – \$277,651 awarded to Dr. Michael Andreu, Dr. Stephen Enloe and Deborah Stone from the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

"UF and the Gulf" – \$2,250 awarded to Dr. Ed Camp from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine



Recently Started Grants

“Tactical Ecological Data Collection on Intact, Disturbed, and Restored Areas in the Apalachicola Region” – \$428,353 awarded to Dr. Eben Broadbent from Florida A&M University

“Quantifying the Economic Benefits of Springs in the Lower Suwanee and Santa Fe River Basins of North-Central Florida” – \$31,131 awarded to Dr. Kotryna Klizentyte from Alachua County

“Indian River Lagoon Microalgae and Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring of the North Stations” – \$75,000 awarded to Dr. Edward Phlips from the Indian River Lagoon Council

“National Future Fishermen Coalition” – \$18,436 awarded to Joy Hazell from the Reef Fish Conservation and Education Foundation

“CHIRP: Moving Beyond Vulnerability: Finding Earth Science Solutions to Sea Level Rise and Saltwater Intrusion in Small Coastal Communities” – \$62,999 awarded to Dr. Anna Braswell and Joy Hazell from the National Science Foundation



Photos clockwise from top left: Students display their posters at the FAS Graduate Student Symposium on Feb. 13; Dr. Taylor Stein's ecotourism students survey attendees at the Florida Trail Fest on Feb. 8; a prescribed burn underway at the Fire Festival on Feb. 1; a child tries on fire gear at the Fire Festival. Photos by Suzette Cook and Stephanie Castellano.

