



JANUARY 2025



SFFGS staff learn about Austin Cary Forest on a recent field trip. Photo by Suzette Cook.

Upcoming Events

Flatwoods Fire and Nature Festival

Saturday, February 1

Join us at Austin Cary Forest for a free, family-friendly event that celebrates the use of prescribed fire! [Find more information here.](#)

SFFGS Movie Night

Friday, February 7

We're hosting a wildlife-themed movie night open to everyone! Come see Migration, about a family of mallard ducks on the move, in the NZ Breezeway starting at 6:30 p.m.

Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences Graduate Student Symposium

Friday, February 13

The symposium will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Austin Cary Forest. For more information on attending, email Megan Siemann at msiemann@ufl.edu.



Happening this weekend!

Save the Date!

Forestry Graduate Student Symposium
Friday, March 28

Program Advisory Committee Meetings
Thursday, April 3

Advisory Board Meeting
Friday, April 4

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

News

This semester we welcome Dr. Yue Li as our new Assistant Professor of Environmental Education. Dr. Li comes from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where she was an assistant professor in the School of Education. She earned her Ph.D. in environmental education from Cornell University in 2017. Dr. Li's research explores nature-based education, professional development for environmental educators, and integrating AI into STEM learning and teaching. Welcome, Dr. Li!



Jackie Gilley, undergraduate academic advisor for students majoring in Geomatics or Forest Resources & Conservation, was named the UF CALS Professional Advisor of the Year Award. Congratulations Jackie on this well-deserved honor!



Dr. Don Behringer, Professor of Marine and Disease Ecology, received a Fulbright award to teach aquatic disease ecology at the University of Zagreb in Croatia. Dr. Behringer will train faculty and students on implementing a research approach to emerging and proliferating diseases in aquatic ecosystems. Congratulations Dr. Behringer!



Dr. Deb Murie, Professor of Marine Fisheries Ecology, received the Rich Cailteux Award from the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. This is the highest award the chapter bestows, recognizing individuals "who have maintained a long-term commitment to research, management, and conservation of Florida fisheries and aquatic resources." Congratulations Dr. Murie!



Dr. Mysha Clarke, Assistant Professor of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, and Dr. Lindsey Reisinger, Assistant Professor of Freshwater Ecology, were awarded 2025 UF/IFAS Archer Early Career Seed Grants. Dr. Clarke will use the funding for a research project comparing urban forests and climate resilience in Miami, Florida and Kingston, Jamaica. Dr. Reisinger will use the funds to study how behavioral traits in three aquatic invertebrate species differ between urban and non-urban streams, which could reveal insights into the ecological consequences of urbanizing streams. Congratulations Dr. Clarke and Dr. Reisinger!



Dr. Li joins SFFSG as Assistant Professor of Environmental Education. She and her family pose for a photo in front of Newins-Ziegler Hall.



Undergraduate advisor Jackie Gilley was recognized as the UF CALS Professional Advisor of the Year.

Recently Started Grants

“A crayfish invasion threatens the imperiled black creel crayfish: Evaluating the role of disease and options for conservation (Year 2)” – \$55,675 awarded to Dr. Lindsey Reisinger from the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

“Age validation and epigenetic ageing of Gulf of Alaska groundfishes” – \$178,407 awarded to Dr. William Patterson from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

“Understanding the geography of wildlife use in the face of urbanization” – \$55,870 awarded to Dr. Denis Valle from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University



Photos from the field: Top left, SFFGS faculty and staff tour Evans Fish Farm in Pierson, Florida; Top right, Dr. Rosvel Bracho installs an eddy covariance flux tower as part of a new research effort at the Range Cattle Research & Education Center; Bottom, students in Dr. Michael Andreu’s Fall 2024 Forest Dendrology class jump for joy after their final exam. Photos by Dr. Roy Yanong, Suzette Cook and Stephanie Castellano.

