“Jim Stevenson Resource Manager of the Year” 2009 Awards are Announced!

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The State of Florida prioritizes the professional management of its large inventory of public conservation and recreation lands in order to protect their high ecological value and natural biological diversity. The Jim Stevenson Resource Manager of the Year Award was established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and is given annually by proclamation of the Governor and Cabinet to recognize outstanding resource management achievements by the hundreds of resource managers that protect these properties. The award is named for James A. Stevenson, who was a tireless advocate for prescribed burning and exotic plant control for 24 years with DEP’s Florida Park Service, and subsequently spearheaded an enduring initiative to protect Florida’s springs starting when he was the Chief of Public Lands Management for the Department of Environmental Protection.

The three award winners are specially recognized as superior land managers from each of the three major agencies that manage Florida’s public lands. The 2009 winners are:

From the Department of Environmental Protection:

Mr. Charles Brown is the park manager at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, the 3rd largest state park in the Florida State Park system. The resolution states that Charlie, his well trained staff, and many partners were able to burn 33,271 acres of fire-dependent habitat on the 53,700 acre state park in the year before the nomination. This was the most burned on any DEP property in the state that year. More impressive is the fact that throughout most of the burn season, the park was experiencing drought, which meant that every prescription had to be reviewed by two higher levels of administration and many burns needed extra planning, staff, and equipment. In the same year, Charlie’s thorough prep work allowed an authorized burn-out of a large wildfire without having to drop a plow onto the dry prairie habitat... (to read more about Charlie click here)

Charles Brown, park manager at Kissimmee Prairie State Park on an airboat.

From the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC):

Ms. Nancy Dwyer is the Lead Area Biologist at the 9,500-acre Half Moon Wildlife Management Area (WMA). At Nancy’s urging, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, owner of half the property, turned over management authority to FWC, allowing Nancy to ramp-up prescribed burning and groundcover restoration on the entire property. (Continued on page 2)
Currently, the flatwoods of Half Moon are burned within the desired fire return interval of two to five years. Under her leadership, an active scrub-jay banding and habitat management program was established on Half Moon WMA. This successful program confirmed 15 fledglings in 2008, the highest number ever observed. The current population using Half Moon is estimated at 35 birds, and the scrub-jays have returned to previously abandoned habitat. But fewer groups occur now than were estimated to exist there several decades ago, so more habitat management is needed. Nancy also works with the Florida Division of Forestry, lead managing agency on Citrus WMA, to contract the removal of invasive oak trees to help restore sandhill habitat... (To read more about Nancy click [here](#))

From the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry:

Mr. Ken Weber is Manager of the Tallahassee Forestry Center, and is responsible for coordinating all resource management activities on the Lake Talquin, Tate’s Hell, and Wakulla state forests, totaling more than 224,000 acres. Ken enjoys participating in difficult field work as a way to show leadership. He and his staff have averaged about 23,000 acres of forest inventory annually. Ken has also made exemplary contributions to the prescribed burn program on these forests and has been associated with more than 300,000 acres of restoration prescribed burns. Under his watch, more than 12,000 acres have been planted to restore native plant communities and protect endangered species. Ken has also worked with the Northwest Florida Water Management District and other outside entities to accomplish hydrologic restoration goals in Tate’s Hell by completing 12 projects resulting in restoration of almost 40,000 acres of wetlands. Ken enjoys the challenge in converting single-use privately owned forests to multiple-use public forests. For the fledgling Tate’s Hell and Wakulla forests, Ken developed some of the first state forest liaison committees. Ken and his staff listened to the testimony for traditional uses, such as apiary sites, worm-grunting, and hunt camps, and recognized these uses as important to the heritage, livelihood, and recreational time of the local forest users while not degrading land... (To read more about Ken click [here](#))

A hearty congratulation to the three agency winners of the 2009 Jim Stevenson Resource Manager of the Year Award! You exemplify the skillful stewardship of Florida’s exceptional public lands.
Effects of Prescribed Fire on Understory Vegetation, Carbon Pools and Soil Nutrients in a Longleaf Pine-Slash Pine Forests in Florida


We quantified fire-driven loss and post-fire recovery of understory and soil carbon (C) and nutrient pools for one to three years following a single prescribed fire in a naturally regenerated longleaf (Pinus palustris Mill.) and slash pine (Pintis elliottii Engelm. var. elliottii) forest located in north central Florida. Fire immediately reduced total aboveground understory C and nitrogen (N) pools, but these pools recovered to pre-fire levels after three years. Our results also showed that the effect of fire on the understory composition and structure was only short-lived. Prescribed fire significantly reduced total C and N pools in the forest floor (F and H horizon), and this effect persisted for at least one year postfire. Available NH4+, PO43-, Ca2+, Mg-2, and K+ concentrations in the forest floor decreased immediately after fire, but increased in the surface mineral soil (0 to 5 cm depth); Ca2+, Mg2+, and K+ remained elevated for the first year after fire. Fire immediately reduced total ecosystem C and N pools by 40% and 27%, respectively, emitting 3860 g C m(-2) and 170 g N m(-2) to the atmosphere. The pools recovered to 67% and 76% of pre-fire C and N pools, respectively, after one year. Of the pools measured, C and N recovery in forest floor materials was the slowest, and projections of initial recovery rates suggest that it will take more than six years, the previous fire interval, to reach pre-fire levels. This slow recovery may indicate variation in past rates of forest floor accumulation due to management practices as well as effects of the severity of this or previous fires.

Publisher: Natural Areas Association. To read the full article members click here.

Upcoming Events

- **Timber Tax Webinar** March 17, 2010; at 12:00 noon-1:30 pm ET. Program will cover tax filing tips for timber transactions for the 2010 tax season. Target audience: landowners, foresters, agency staff and program leaders, extension specialist and tax professionals. 1.5 CFE credits available for foresters. No registration required. Log in at http://forestrywebinar.net/

- **Vegetation Monitoring in a Management Context** March 1-6, 2010. A Natural Training Areas (NATA) workshop and developed for USFS continuing education. Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, FL. To register and more information please visit http://nata.snre.ufl.edu/schedule.htm

- **The 2010 Southeast Partners in Flight Meeting** March 9-11, 2010. A working group of various stakeholders in the southeast interested in avian conservation and management. The meeting will be held at the UF Hilton Conference Center, Gainesville, FL. For registration forms and more information, please visit: http://sepif.org/content/view/46/1/

- **Forest Stewardship Workshop Series: Diversify Income from Your Land** March 11, 2010; 9:00 am – 3:30 pm, ET; UF-IFAS Hillsborough County Extension Office in Seffner, FL. Contact Rob Northrop at (813) 744-5519 x.106 to register.
Upcoming Events Cont...

- **Wildlife Management Workshop** March 11, 2010, 8:30 am - 3:45 pm. Jackson County Agriculture Office Complex, Marianna, Florida. Click [here](#) to see the agenda. Lunch provided with pre-registration by March 8. Call the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Extension office at (850) 482-9620.

- **Working Across Boundaries to Protect Ecosystems** March 23-25, 2010. A Natural Training Areas (NATA) workshop addressing how political, social and ecological forces can affect natural areas and innovative management strategies. To register and more information please visit [http://nata.snre.ufl.edu/schedule.htm](http://nata.snre.ufl.edu/schedule.htm)

- **Forest Stewardship Workshop Series: Diversify Income from Your Land** March 23, 2010; 9:00 am – 3:30 pm, ET, UF-IFAS Clay County Extension Office in Green Cove Springs, FL. Contact the Extension Office at (904) 284-6355 to register. Workshop Agenda: [http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida_forestry_information/events_calendar/files/enterprises_clay032310_agenda.pdf](http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida_forestry_information/events_calendar/files/enterprises_clay032310_agenda.pdf)