Forest/Natural Resource Economist joins CFEOR Administrative Team

What is the value of a forest ecosystem? What new market opportunities are coming along for forest land owners? These are the questions CFEOR members asked and are the same ones that are of interest to our new CFEOR co-director, Douglas Carter. Doug is Professor of Forest Economics and Management at UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation.

Doug’s areas of expertise includes forest landscape planning, spatial analysis, market and nonmarket valuation, harvest planning, timber market analysis, and analysis of multiple use tradeoffs in sustainable forest production. He received his B.S. degree in Forest Management and M.S. degree in Forest Economics from Texas A&M University, and his Ph.D. in Natural Resource Economics from the University of Georgia.

“I came to CFEOR because I know how important these forests are to Floridians. I wanted to bring my expertise in forest resource economics to help quantify that importance as well as assist in providing guidance to their sustainable management.” Dr. Douglas Carter

CFEOR is fortunate to enlist Doug Carter. His 15 years working with Florida’s landscapes is a tremendous asset. Doug will be replacing CFEOR co-director, Janaki Alavalapati who recently took the position of chair in the Department of Forestry at Virginia Tech. Janaki was instrumental in establishing the cooperative and his leadership and expertise will be missed.

CFEOR Steering Committee Meeting

The CFEOR annual steering committee meeting will be held on Friday, Sept. 26, 2008 at the Eyster Auditorium Florida Division of Forestry in Tallahassee. The meeting will begin at 11:30AM.
**Upcoming Conferences**

- **Project Learning Tree, PreK-8 Educator Workshop**
  September 13th 9:00 am-3:30 pm at the Austin Cary Memorial Forest, Gainesville, FL
  PLT Certification, Activity Guide, and Valuable Teaching Resources
  $10 at the door, lunch included. For more information visit:
  http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/plt/events_calendar/Austin_Cary_Workshop.html

- **Southeastern Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting**
  “Forest Risk: The New Dimension (Earth, Wind, and Fire)”
  September 21-23, at Mountain Creek Inn, Pine Mountain, GA
  For more information visit: http://www.sesaf.org/annual08.php

- **2008 Southern Mensurationists Conference**
  October 26-29 Holiday Inn, St. Augustine Beach, FL
  Professionals and Students welcome! Call for Papers and Abstracts!
  For more information visit:

- **The Wildlife Society 15th Annual Conference**
  November, 8-12, Miami, FL
  For more info visit  http://joomla.wildlife.org/Miami08/

- **2008 Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference**
  December 3-5, Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville, FL
  For more information visit: http://www.ces.fau.edu/plam2008/

- **Tall Timbers Research and Land Conservancy 24th Fire Ecology Conference**
  January 11-15, 2009 Ramada Conference Center, Tallahassee, FL
  Theme: “Future of Prescribed Fire: Public Awareness, Health, & Safety”
  Call for Papers and Abstracts!
  For more information visit: http://www.talltimbers.org/FEconference/

**Recent Research Finding**

Sand pine seedling distribution and biomechanics in relation to microsite conditions and proximity to potential nurse plants –

We investigated the distribution of sand pine (Pinus clausa) seedlings in relation to the locations of hardwoods and palmettos that had resprouted in five recently clear-cut and one burned stand in sand pine scrub vegetation in Ocala National Forest (Florida, USA). We also studied how the shade and mechanical support provided by the taller resprouts affect the allometry and biomechanics of sand pine seedling stems. Although soil surface temperatures were higher and soil moisture contents (0-5 cm) were lower in open than in covered microsites, sand pine seedling densities did not vary in relation to proximity to resprouted hardwoods and palmettos. There was no apparent nurse plant effect on sand pine seedling distributions, but seedlings that grew up under the resprouts had larger whole stem flexibilities, greater height: diameter ratios, and less tapered stems. In response to the mechanical support and shade of neighboring plants, sand pine seedlings grow taller per unit investment in stem tissue, thereby shortening the period during which they presumably suffer from above-ground competition. This biomechanical plasticity increases the rates at which sand pine seedlings can overtop their resprouted competitors.