



TALL TIMBERS

Research Station & Land Conservancy

Annual Report 2013



Mission

The mission of Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy is to foster exemplary land stewardship through research, conservation and education. Our primary research focus is the ecology of fire and natural resource management including bobwhite quail and other wildlife in the southeastern coastal plain. Our conservation efforts are dedicated to helping protect the distinctive Red Hills landscape of south Georgia and north Florida, and its traditional land uses. Our education program transfers research and conservation information for resource management.



President’s Report

By Bill Palmer, PhD, President & CEO

The founders of Tall Timbers envisioned a relatively small organization having a disproportionately large impact on conservation – a legacy we continue today. They knew the importance of fire for maintaining ecosystems and they were a catalyst for a whole new focus of science – fire ecology. Thanks to their vision and efforts, that field has blossomed from a handful of ardent fire advocates in the 1960s to an army of fire practitioners, managers, and scientists today. Florida and Georgia are leaders in acres burned with prescribed fire, which is one of the greatest legacies of Tall Timbers’ founders.

The challenges of putting fire on the ground are still daunting as nearly all ecosystems in the Southeast are burned too infrequently to support the flora and fauna adapted to them. Through our research programs, and public-private partnerships, Tall Timbers continues to increase fire use on public and private lands. This past year, our management philosophies were the motivation to burn hundreds of thousands of acres in the Southeast!

Our innovative research and outreach programs are paired with our accredited Land Conservancy, now protecting over 127,000 acres of frequently burned habitats in the greater Red Hills region. Our combination of research station and land trust is highly successful in protecting working landscapes! This year, we have strengthened our advocacy program to build public support for protection of the region.

We are sensibly adapting our tactics to meet new and future challenges to prescribed fire, fire-maintained ecosystems, and the Greater Red Hills Region. However, we remain a fire ecology research station and a land trust – our mission is to foster exemplary land stewardship and protect critical habitats managed with fire. We remain a relatively small organization, but are proud to have a disproportionate impact on managing our wild lands! We greatly appreciate your support.



Coffee klatch, Birdsong Plantation, Thanksgiving 1958. Seated left to right, Herbert L. Stoddard, Ed Komarek, J. L. Stevens, Henry L. Beadel. Beadel, Stoddard and Komarek were the founders of Tall Timbers, which was incorporated as Tall Timbers Research Station, Inc. in February of that year. Photo by Roy Komarek, Tall Timbers Archives.

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Chairman’s Message

By Cornelia G. Corbett, Chairman

2013 marked a year of change for Tall Timbers. First there was a new leadership team as I took over as Chairman of the Tall Timbers Board of Trustees and Dr. Bill Palmer completed his first full year as the President/CEO of the organization. Second, a remarkable change was the acquisition of the historic Dixie Plantation property expanding Tall Timbers land ownership by 9000 acres. This unprecedented gift provides Tall Timbers with tremendous opportunities for growth in our research and outreach programs. The acquisition also follows the founders of Tall Timbers vision of owning and operating multiple field stations. And third, we developed a new program within the Land Conservancy, the Greater Red Hills Awareness Initiative, to deal with the ever changing landscape. This novel program is designed to educate the regions leaders and decision makers, as well as the public, on the immense ecological, cultural and economic value of the Red Hills! This is one example of how we are reaching out to new constituents to help broaden their appreciation for our special part of the world. Our strength is our Research and Land Conservation Programs and our achievements demonstrate our commitment to these core missions. Achievements included:

- Added over 3,200 acres of donated conservation easement lands from three important properties in southwest Georgia, bringing the total to 126,500 acres saved in the region.
- Submitted a dozen scientific manuscripts and made 18 invited presentations.
- Acquired the 9100-acre Dixie Plantation, donated by the Geraldine C. M. Livingston Foundation.
- Began a new collaborative regional project, the Greater Red Hills Awareness Initiative to expand public awareness and conservation support for the Red Hills region.
- Completed the Economic Impact of the Red Hills hunting properties that demonstrated a \$150 million annual impact to our local economies.
- Made improvements to the campus buildings and digital infrastructure that had lagged during the tight budgets of the recession.

On balance, our achievements far outweighed the challenges we faced in 2013. Yet there are threats to the Red Hills that Tall Timbers is diligently combatting. Development of the rural lands of the Red Hills is ever-looming and our planning coordinator continues to work with community leaders to avoid unreasonable ingress. Keeping our research relevant and focused on our mission is key to our long-term success! As a non-profit we are constantly searching for new ways to raise funds to support our programs. In 2014, with a new development director on staff working with our communications director and the coordinator of the Greater Red Hills Awareness Initiative, I know we will increase the support for our programs, as we provide our constituents with the information they need to make land management and conservation decisions.

2014 TALL TIMBERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES — Seated L-R: Rhett Johnson, Rozzie Davis, Cornelia Corbett, Virginia Wetherell, and Mason Hawkins. Standing L-R: Tim Pirrung, Reggie Thackston, Charlie Chapin, Redmond Ingalls, John Thompson, George Watkins, Tom Rankin and Ebe Walter. Not pictured: Ward Davenport, Ken Haddad, Rip Kirby, Wes Langdale, Karl Miller, Dave Perkins, George Simmons and Cindy Webster, Daphne Wood. Photo by Rose Rodriguez.



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Research & Land Management

Tall Timbers research staff continued their long-term scientific study of fire ecology and wildlife management. Our research provides land managers and policy makers with pertinent and useful information for better management. This year our staff explored: hardwood resprouting in fire-maintained pine forests; effects of soil disturbance on native plant diversity; improving estimates of smoke emissions from prescribed fire for southeast ecosystems; effects of daily weather on brood survival of northern bobwhites; and causes of decline of the Florida grasshopper sparrow. In addition, our Beadel Fellows, research associates and collaborative researchers strengthen our research programs and provide valuable information on many projects throughout the region and other parts of the U.S.

Each scientist at Tall Timbers has a professional commitment to communicate results of their research to many audiences. Publication is the end product of their research and of highest importance. In 2013, staff made 24 scientific presentations of their research at state, regional and national

professional meetings—of these—18 were invited. Staff submitted 12 scientific manuscripts; to date, 2 were published and 5 accepted for publication. Staff also produced two extension papers and several grant reports. In addition to publishing, scientists serve on numerous advisory graduate student committees for various universities and sponsor visiting researchers to Tall Timbers.

Outreach is *the link* to sharing research with audiences throughout the region. In 2013, staff conducted 103 outreach activities to civic, private, academic, and agency groups—an outstanding accomplishment! Staff jointly composed instructor cadres for numerous landmanager workshops and tours, such as the highly popular Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) “*Fire in Southern Pines*” training course held at Tall Timbers. This week-long course provides NRCS field personnel in-depth training on fire use, fire management and ecological effects, as well as skills to conduct conservation planning that promotes fire use in contracts with landowners.



At far left, Tall Timbers Land Manager, Eric Staller and Outreach & Education Coordinator, Theron Terhune, next to him, instruct attendees on prescribed burning at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) “Fire in Southern Pines” training course held at Tall Timbers in February 2013.

2013 Research Highlights

Fire Ecology

Tall Timbers’ signature Fire Ecology Program provides information to improve fire emission models, which overestimate particulate pollution from prescribed fire. This important collaborative research helps to protect prescribed fire as an ecosystem management tool.



In October 2013, the Fire Ecology lab completed the eighth annual census of the plant communities burned at various fire frequencies in half-acre plots on Pebble Hill Plantation. Photo by Kevin Robertson.

- Initiated research on effects of soil disturbance on native plant community biodiversity;
- Completed NSF-funded research project on smoke emissions from prescribed burning;
- Published on hardwood resprouting ecology in fire-maintained upland pine forests.

Game Bird Program

Our nationally-recognized Game Bird Program has revolutionized quail management in the Southeastern U. S. A recent survey of managers indicated that nearly 100% of wild quail lands on private lands are managed using Tall Timbers’ Best Management Practices.

- Theron M. Terhune, Ph.D. was named the new Director of Game Bird Research and Balfour Game Bird Management Research Fellow.
- Translocated wild quail to five sites in Georgia and the Carolinas to help create new wild bobwhite populations;
- Began new study on brood ecology of bobwhites using infra-red video technology to assess daily survival and effects of weather.



Brown-head Nuthatch with leg band at nest cavity. Photo courtesy of Tara Tanaka.

Stoddard Bird Lab

The Vertebrate Ecology Program was renamed the Stoddard Lab of Ornithology at Tall Timbers in honor of Herbert Stoddard, one of our founders and a renowned ornithologist. The nationally-recognized program leads the Southeast in bird/fire ecology issues.

- Initiated second year of large-scale Brown-headed Nuthatch experiment to better understand cooperative breeding in this declining species;
- Monitored 30 Red-cockaded Woodpecker territories, including a record number of 8 nests on Tall Timbers;
- Developed a new Safe Harbor Agreement covering 11,000 acres (37th agreement for Georgia);
- Developed new GIS tools for monitoring the critically endangered Florida Grasshopper Sparrow.

Upland Ecosystem Restoration Project

The Upland Ecosystem Restoration Project, now in its eighth year at Tall Timbers, was developed to implement on-the-ground management to maximize the conservation benefit of upland ecosystems on public lands in Florida. The project has successfully engaged the State’s four primary land management agencies (Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and National Forests in Florida), to address conservation threats (incompatible fire regime) on over 100,000 acres, and change management philosophy towards restoration of priority habitats, which benefit declining fire-dependent wildlife species.

- Treated 56,000 acres with prescribed fire, roller chopping and sustainable timber harvest;
- Completed over 200 fall covey call surveys;

— Research Highlights continued p. 6



A quail covey rise on the Apalachicola National Forest UERP focal area. Photo by Shane Wellendorf.

- *Monitored threatened bird communities on four focal areas;*
- *Conducted radio-telemetry monitoring of Bachman's Sparrows to determine singing rate.*

Beadel Fellow Report 2013

Through their on-going research and experience, Tall Timbers' Beadel Fellows provide a unique and enriching perspective to our scientists throughout the year. They provide mentorship and wisdom to graduate students and interns. Their experiences in their field of study are invaluable to Tall Timbers.

Jeff Glitzenstein & Donna Streng

Drs. Jeff Glitzenstein and Donna Streng continued monitoring activities for a contract through Tall Timbers with the Westervelt Company on a restoration project adjacent to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Florida. They also continued to work with the Fire Ecology Program to analyze tree population changes in the Stoddard Fire Plots on Tall Timbers to determine effects of fire regimes on tree dynamics over the next several decades and to assess whether these populations have now stabilized with respect to the long term burn regimes.

Gil Nelson

Dr. Gil Nelson continued work in 2013 with Tall Timbers' Museum collection. He geo-referenced our mammal and bird specimen collections and provided guidance to the Fire Ecology Program in geo-referencing plant specimens held at Tall Timbers and FSU, which are provided through web portals. Record sets for Tall Timbers' plants, mammals, birds, and butterflies were also created and then submitted to iDigBio, the National Science Foundation's (NSF) national resource for the digitization of biological collections,

giving Tall Timbers early exposure in a 10-year NSF initiative designed to provide images and collection records for at least 1 billion plant and animal specimens.

Tall Timbers' museum equipment and protocols from the NSF-funded digitization project were used in a workshop at Florida State University serving Archbold Biological Station, University of West Florida and Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve in their effort to incorporate their herbarium data into FSU's data portal. Ultimately data from all participating institutions will be searched simultaneously, resulting in a robust regional dataset especially for the Florida panhandle, central Florida scrub, and the greater Red Hills region.



Tropical butterflies, part of the Lucien Harris Jr. Lepidoptera Collection in Tall Timbers' Natural History Museum. Collection record sets were submitted to iDigBio, the National Science Foundation's (NSF) national resource for the digitization of biological collections. Photo by Rose Rodriguez.

William J. Platt

Dr. Bill Platt continued long-term study on the Wade Tract Preserve. The thirty-fifth annual census of the Wade Tract was conducted in 2013, with approximately 19,000 tagged trees evaluated for life status (alive/dead), diameter at breast height, and condition of the tree. In 2013, data from the Wade Tract were incorporated into a new updated master file, and analysis of the long-term data continued on the mapped plot. In addition, the history of fire and measurements of characteristics and the behavior of prescribed fires were placed into a useable format for future research. Finally, data from a field experiment concerning effects of fuel type and amount on groundcover plants on the Wade Tract indicated that pyrogenic pine needles do influence the numbers and height of oak stems after fires, as well as the number of culms in grass clumps and the number of flowering stems in clumps.

At right, tagged longleaf pine on the Wade Tract Preserve. The thirty-fifth annual census of the Wade Tract was conducted in 2013 by Dr. Bill Platt and his crew. Photo by Rose Rodriguez.

PARTNERSHIPS

Prescribed Fire Training Center

Greg Seamon, Fire Training Specialist, PFTC



Tall Timbers' 2012 partnership with the Prescribed Fire Training Center (PFTC), in Tallahassee, FL, which is funded by the U.S. Forest Service, continues to be highly successful with Fire Training Specialist Greg Seamon, a Tall Timbers employee, heading up training workshops for the Center.

- PFTC held five 20-day sessions and one workshop with 98 participants representing six federal agencies, six local agencies, one university and two international sites.
- PFTC teams conducted 172 burns totaling 70,279 acres, with 33 different cooperators, of which 26,079 acres were in the wildland urban interface.
- Four participants in the 20-day sessions registered and received three upper-division credits through the University of Florida.

- There were 31 line officers from two federal agencies that participated in the Agency Administrators Workshop.



Aerial ignition from a helicopter on prescribed burn conducted on the Ocala National Forest by the PFTC. Photo courtesy of Greg Seamon, PFTC.



PARTNERSHIPS

The National Park Service

Caroline Noble, NPS Southeast Region Fire Ecologist



The National Park Service Southeast (NPS) Fire Ecology Program and Fuels Management Program continued to feel the repercussions from declining Department of Interior fire management budgets in 2013. As Congress closely scrutinizes the effectiveness of all prescribed fires on federal lands, the NPS monitoring program continues to provide detailed data that demonstrate the benefits of prescribed fire in the southeast. This data will be increasingly important as federal funds for prescribed fire continue to decline.

Unfortunately, the impacts from declining budgets manifest themselves both in reductions in the amount of prescribed fire and reductions in personnel. In 2013, the NPS Southeast Region was only able to treat about 50% its normal acreage with fire. Additionally, the number of staff available to treat those acres has also declined. Although no employees have lost their positions yet directly as a result of decreased funds, all have been encouraged to seek out additional employment opportunities as they become available, and most vacant positions will go unfilled for the foreseeable future.

As a result of this changing workforce, the NPS Regional Fire Ecologist who has been at Tall Timbers for 14 years, Caroline Noble, has taken a new position [June 2014] with the US Forest Service Wildland Fire Management Research, Development, and Application Team. She will maintain professional relationships with various Tall Timbers staff but will no longer be an onsite partner.



Caroline Noble, NPS Regional Fire Ecologist.

Information about the NPS fire management and fire effects monitoring programs can be found at the following website: <http://www.nps.gov/fire/wildland-fire/what-we-do/science-ecology-and-research.cfm> while information about the USFS Wildland Fire Management Research, Development, and Application team can be found at <http://www.wfmrda.nwac.gov/>.

At right, attendees on a Southern Fire Exchange field tour in Central Florida discuss fire management options for controlling saw palmetto cover, while simultaneously encouraging natural slash pine regeneration. Photo by David Godwin.

The Southern Fire Exchange

David R. Godwin, PhD, Program and Outreach Coordinator



In July of 2013, as a sign of their ongoing dedication to regional fire science communication and implementation, Tall Timbers began hosting the Program and Outreach Coordinator for the Southern Fire Exchange (SFE) program. Along with the University of Florida, North Carolina State University, and the US Forest Service Southern Research Station, Tall Timbers has been one of the leaders in developing the SFE since the program began in 2010. Funded by grants from the federal Joint Fire Science Program, the SFE is a part of a national network of regional fire science exchanges that are designed to increase the availability and application of fire science information for natural resource managers and to serve as a conduit for fire managers to share research needs with the scientific community.

Through the efforts of the entire SFE team and partners, we're proud to report that SFE involved fire science outreach activities connected with over 24,000 participants during fiscal year 2013. Additional FY 2013 program highlights include: five regional field tours for managers and scientists, four webinars with researchers, six research summary fact sheets, one workshop, one training session, twenty-four presentations, six newsletters, and seventy-six website updates. The exceptionally wide reach of the Southern Fire Exchange would not be possible without the support of excellent outside partners like the state and regional prescribed fire councils, The Nature Conservancy, and the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS). To learn more about the Southern Fire Exchange or to sign up for our email newsletter visit: <http://www.southernfireexchange.org>.



2013 Research Publications — Staff & Associates

Peer Reviewed

- Clewell, A. F. 2013. Prior prevalence of shortleaf pine-oak-hickory woodlands in the Tallahassee Red Hills. *Castanea* 78:266-276.
- DeGroot, L.W., H.K. Ober, C.M. McDonough, and R.F. Mizell, III. 2013. An evaluation of the nine-banded armadillo as predators of gopher tortoise and northern bobwhite quail nests in Florida. *American Midland Naturalist* 169:74-85.
- Ellair, D.P. and W.J. Platt. 2013. Fuel composition influences fire characteristics and understory hardwoods in pine savannas. *Journal of Ecology* 101:192-201.
- Ellis-Felege, S.N., J.S. Burnam, W.E. Palmer, D.C. Sisson, and J.P. Carroll. 2013. Fight or flight: parental decisions about predators at nests of northern bobwhites (*Colinus virginianus*). *The Auk* 130 (4):1-8. Scientific.
- Jones, C. J., J. A. Cox, E. Toriani-Moura, and R. J. Cooper. 2013. Bachman's Sparrow nest-site characteristics and their relationship to plant succession following prescribed burns. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 125:293-300.
- Millsap B.A., Breen T.F., Phillips L.M. 2013. Ecology of the Cooper's hawk. *North American Fauna* 78: 1-58. doi:10.3996/nafa.78.0001
- Robertson, K.M. and T.L. Hmielowski. 2013. Effects of fire frequency and season on resprouting of woody plants in south-eastern US pine-grassland communities. *Oecologia*. Published online 10 November 2013, DOI 10.1007/s00442-013-2823-4. Scientific.
- Tang, C.Q., Y. Yang, M. Ohsawa, A. Momohara, J. Mu, and K. Robertson. 2013. Survival of a Tertiary relict species: the Chinese tulip tree in southern China, with special reference to village fungshui forests. *American Journal of Botany* 100:2112-2119. Scientific.

Extension

- Sisson, D.C., Stribling, H.L., Mitchell, S., and T. Crouch. 2013. The Alabama Quail Project: September 2002-September 2011. Tall Timbers Miscellaneous Publication #19. Tall Timbers Research, Inc. Tallahassee, FL.

Graduate Students

- Gornish, Elise S. 2013 Investigating the relationships between global change and plant response. PhD Dissertation submitted to Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL.
- Hmielowski, T.L. 2013. Effects of environmental conditions on characteristics of prescribed fires and resprouting of hardwoods in shortleaf pine-oak-hickory ecosystems of the United States. PhD Dissertation submitted to Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Grant Reports

- Cox, J.A. and J.W. Tucker. 2013. Improving nest-finding success for the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow using a trained dog and technical assistance on sparrow monitoring efforts. Final Report for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, South Florida Ecological Services Office, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL. 31 pp.



In 2013, Tall Timbers closed on three important conservation easements in southwest Georgia and acquired the 9,100-acre Dixie Plantation in Jefferson County, Florida. To date, Tall Timbers has saved over 126,500 acres via donated conservation easements.



The main house at Dixie Plantation was designed by noted architect John Russell Pope in 1936. Photo Rose Rodriguez.

Dixie Plantation — Jefferson County, Florida

The historic Dixie Plantation originally comprised nearly 18,000 acres of land straddling the Georgia-Florida line. It was the winter estate of Gerald Livingston whose father, Crawford Livingston II, was a railroad magnate and prominent investor in the Northern Pacific Railway. After financially surviving the Great Depression, Gerald Livingston and his wife Eleanor commissioned noted architect John Russell Pope to design the 14,000 square foot Classical Revival mansion that became the centerpiece of the grand estate. Pope was considered one of the nation’s prominent 20th Century architects having designed the Jefferson Memorial and the National Gallery of Art. Since 1937 the plantation has served as the host for the Continental Field Trials. The competition brings together the skills of a dog handler and a dog’s ability to point for quail hunting. While the Georgia half of the plantation was sold, the Florida side was inherited in 1977 by daughter Geraldine Livingston who established a foundation to manage the property and continue the Field Trials. In 2013, the Foundation transferred the property and its assets to Tall Timbers. The Suwannee River Water Management District holds a conservation easement on the property. The acquisition provides Tall Timbers with additional research lands and compliments its conservation mission to protect the Red Hills Region.

Balfour-Trulock Place — Grady County, Georgia

The Trulock Tract is approximately 2,149 acres located in Grady County, Georgia. The tract has been owned by the

Balfour Land Company as timber and recreational hunting land since the 1930s. The property consists primarily of a mixture of pine uplands, managed for timber production and bottomland forest associated with the Ochlockonee River floodplain. The easement has approximately 2.5 miles of frontage on the Ochlockonee River and approximately 1.5 miles of frontage on its tributary, Tired Creek. The associated bottomlands contain high quality floodplain forest. Protection of the associated river floodplain reduces erosion and will protect water quality and aquatic habitats in both the river and along Tired Creek. The property is adjacent to several privately owned tracts that are also under easement with Tall Timbers (Rosemary Plantation, Gadwall Farm and Deerwood Plantation). In addition, the State of Georgia has 4,193 acres in conservation easements or state ownership within the Ochlockonee River floodplain.



Balfour-Trulock Place Conservation Easement

Leary Farm, Phase II — Calhoun County, Georgia

Leary Farm is a 2,000 acre property located in Calhoun County, Georgia. The property is east of Albany near Morgan, Georgia and incorporates the Ichawaynochaway Creek. Other nearby conservation land includes Magnolia



Ms. Lelia DuPre Reynolds and her father William DuPre, III at Leary Farm.

Plantation, Chickasawhatchee Wildlife Management area and Longleaf Plantation.

In 2011, Tall Timbers approved and received a Phase I conservation easement from the DuPre family. Leary Farm contains a unique set of natural resources for Calhoun County, including productive working upland pine forest, relatively undisturbed bottomland forest and frontage along Ichawaynochaway Creek that are now protected by the easement’s Special Natural Area designation.

Chokee Ranch, Phase II — Sumter County, GA

Chokee Ranch comprises 2,700 acres about 13 miles north-east of Leesburg, Georgia. In 2006, the Crisp family donated a conservation easement on 1,208 acres of the ranch to Tall Timbers. The property’s focal conservation areas include flood plain and bottomland forest associated with Dry Branch Creek. Additionally, the Phase II property is adjacent to existing conservation lands and extends the protection of the waterways throughout the region.

Planning and Advocacy

Red Hills Economic Impact Analysis

2013 was an exciting year for the Tall Timbers planning and advocacy program! We completed one very important project and laid the groundwork for two others. With help from Board members and our wonderful Red Hills landowners, Tall Timbers was able to complete the first ever comprehensive economic impact analysis of working rural lands in the Red Hills Region. Planning staff conceived of this project because despite the Red Hills playing a vital role protecting our drinking water, clean air, and wildlife habitat, the messages that truly resonate with many officials and others who make decisions directly affecting the Red Hills region are “jobs” and “economic impact.”



Sloan Walker, owner of Waukeenah Fertilizer, a vital local business supporting Jefferson County’s working lands. Photograph by Adam Cohen.

Over 66 percent of Red Hills landowners responded to our survey and provided detailed economic information on well over 300,000 acres of high quality habitat in the region. Our project partner, the Center for Economic Forecasting and Analysis (CEFA) at Florida State University determined that the regional economic impact of Red Hills quail hunting properties and other working lands was more than \$147 million in 2012. This remarkable economic impact is the result of wide ranging operating and capital improvement expenditures, owners’ discretionary spending, and landowners’ generous local charitable giving benefitting every Red Hills community. CEFA also determined that over 1,400 jobs were directly or indirectly related to these properties. These jobs generated over \$51 million in local labor income resulting in average salaries exceeding those in nearly every Red Hills county.



This study, titled *The Economic Impact of the Red Hills Region of Southwest Georgia and North Florida*, will play an important role in Tall Timbers’ efforts to educate elected officials, other community leaders, landowners, and the general public about the tremendous economic impact and job creation generated by Red Hills’ quail hunting lands and other working rural properties. Tall Timbers is just beginning to work on a similar study of nearly 300,000 acres of quail hunting lands in the greater Albany, Georgia area.

Greater Red Hills Awareness Initiative

Tall Timbers and other organizations have long recognized the importance of stewardship and conservation of the diverse resources that contribute to the uniqueness of the Red Hills Region. The Greater Red Hills Awareness Initiative, a collaborative regional project that began in November of 2013, seeks to significantly broaden public awareness and increase support for protecting and conserving the Red Hills Region and its natural, historical, and cultural amenities. This increased public awareness begins at home with the residents of the Red Hills who may not be aware that they reside in a region designated as one of “America’s Last Great Places.” New Tall Timbers’ staffer Georgia Ackerman is the project manager. She is currently working with more than 20 local, state and non-profit organizations interested in the success of the Initiative. These stakeholders from South Georgia and North Florida will begin planning Red Hills outreach and educational opportunities starting in January 2014.



Georgia Ackerman

Information Resources

Tall Timbers’ product is information. Supervised by Communications Director, Rose Rodriguez, the staff of Information Resources, coordinate the full-range of activities necessary to meet both the internal and external information needs of Tall Timbers. These activities include Communications (public relations, print and digital publications and website management); the Parker-Williams Library, managed by librarian Carol Armstrong Kimball, maintains the E. V. Komarek Fire Ecology Database; and the Archives, Records Management and Historic Resources are maintained by archivist Juanita Whiddon.

Communications

The Legacy of a Red Hills Hunting Plantation, Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy, the 2012 book about the history of Tall Timbers by Robert L. Crawford and William R. Brueckheimer, received a Silver Medal in the Visual Arts Category from the Florida Book Awards. The book was recognized at an awards dinner in March 2013. The following month, Florida First Lady Ann Scott hosted the award winners at a luncheon held at the Governor’s mansion, which was attended by author Robert Crawford, his wife Beth and Tall Timbers Communications Director Rose Rodriguez, who was the managing editor.



L-R, Robert L. Crawford, Beth Crawford, Rose Rodriguez and Florida First Lady Ann Scott, at the Florida Governor’s Mansion. Photo by Stacy Prato.

Parker-Williams Library

The Library and Archives are collaborating on a map digitizing project, to digitize and cataloge the many paper maps in their collections, some of them historic. To begin the project, the Panhandle Library Access Network (PLAN) has provided funds for the digitization of the maps. Funding to provide assistance for cataloging the maps will be sought in 2014. Once cataloged, the maps will be available online at our website.

The Fire Ecology Database is growing. There are now more than 29,000 fire ecology literature citations, most with

abstracts. Funds to support maintenance and updates to the database are proved by a grant from the Joint Fire Science Program and FRAMES.

Librarian Carol Armstrong Kimball was elected Treasurer of the Florida and Caribbean Chapter of SLA (Special Library Association). She is a past Secretary of the Chapter. She participates in many webinars for continuing education in the fast changing fields of information technology.

Archives & Historical Resources

Long-time supporter Duby Ausley made a gift to Tall Timbers of the original Beadel House ice box that had been purchased by Edward Beadel about 1914. The ice box is in wonderful shape due to the masterful restoration work of Ray Gainey; it still has the original Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval. It has been returned to the Beadel House kitchen. With this unexpected gift, archivist Juanita Whiddon is assessing the possibility of using all or part of the kitchen as interpretative exhibit space. One community group has shown an interest in assisting with this project.



The upstairs offices in the Beadel House have been vacated as admintrative staff have moved to the Wade Center. It was decided to turn the offices into art gallery space. Exhibit lighting will be installed and the rooms given a fresh coat of paint. We are very excited about working with the Tallahassee Watercolor Society (TaWS), who will be partnering with Tall Timbers to provide exhibits in the space beginning in the fall of 2014. We feel this new gallery space and partnership with TaWS fits the Beadel family’s interests, as we exhibit Henry Beadel’s watercolors on the first floor of the house.

Monthly and special historic tours of the Beadel House and Jones Family Tenant farm are well attended. A new Beadel House brochure was designed in 2013, and is given to visitors who come to Tall Timbers for tours or meetings. A **tour schedule** is available on Tall Timbers’s website.

Outreach & Education

The objective of the outreach and education program is to transfer knowledge learned from practical research conducted at Tall Timbers, and the broader Red Hills region, by putting the information into the hands of the practitioners.

In 2013, we hosted two luncheons for land managers, land owners, and biologists. The first luncheon covered “Hardwood Control and Response to Prescribed Fire” presented by guest speaker Mark Atwater. The second luncheon focused on the “Application of Herbicides for Vegetation Management,” which highlighted some of the important research being conducted by Dr. Kevin Robertson and the Fire Ecology program. These luncheons have proven to be a great conduit for sharing novel research findings and exchanging management ideas.

During the year, Outreach and Education staff participated in numerous regional and national conservation planning efforts such as the Longleaf Partnership Council, and National Bobwhite Technical Committee. Dr. Theron Terhune presented three research papers as part of a Special Session on Golden-winged Warblers at the American Ornithologists Union in Chicago, Illinois.

Staff hosted a NRCS Prescribed Fire Training class, and also taught two GIS workshops. They also hosted numerous field tours; altogether, more than 135 folks of different walks of life including, college students, land managers, and field biologists, visited Tall Timbers. These field tours provide some of the only opportunity to see firsthand the effect that the implementation of prescribed fire at a large scale has on the landscape and wildlife populations. Outreach staff also



Mark Atwater, of Weed Control Unlimited, Inc., spoke about Invasive Plant Management at a 2013 Tall Timbers land management workshop. Photo by Rose Rodriguez.

hosted a week-long advanced ornithology class from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, giving 16 students an extraordinary opportunity to observe more than 120 bird species, as well as providing them a site to conduct and learn research field methods.

With the generous help of Gem Land Company, Outreach staff beta tested a hunting app, *Birds Up*; the app provides a mobile application for entering quail hunting data.

Technology Transfer

In 2013, two major Information Technology projects were started and completed. The internet infrastructure, including a new server backbone, switches and Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP), provided the foundation for faster internet as well as a new and improved phone system. These upgrades already have and will continue to increase Tall Timbers’ connectivity and future communications in an advancing digital and mobile world. A second major undertaking was revamping our weather station network making the weather data collected on Tall Timbers compliant with the National Fire Danger Ratings System (NFDRS).



Stoddard Bird Lab director, Jim Cox, with an advanced ornithology class from Indiana University of Pennsylvania at the Wade Tract Preserve. Photo by Theron Terhune.

Development

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Your gift makes a difference

Your annual gift to Tall Timbers produces tangible results. As a steward of our wildlife and wildlands, your support helps conserve critical wildlife habitat, precious natural resources, and historic rural landscapes for future generations to share and enjoy.

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For more information about any of the above giving opportunities or how you can support the research and conservation efforts of Tall Timbers, please visit our website, www.talltimbers.org, or contact our Development Director, Dale Fuller, at: 850.893.4153, x343. Thank you again for your generous support.

Addendum

The following donors have been added to this updated, digital version of the 2013 Annual Report.

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Black River Plantation hosted the 2013 South Carolina Field Day. This 1500-acre property in Georgetown County, South Carolina is located on the outer banks of the Black River. The property is steeped in tradition, with a magnificent plantation house listed on the historic National Registry, above, and long-term habitat management goals of restoring native Longleaf Pine ecosystems.

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Above, L-R: Clay Sisson, Director of the Albany Quail Project and Ray Pearce, Land Manager of Nonami Plantation, which hosted the 2013 Fall Field Day. Photo by Rose Rodriguez.

In March 2013, Tall Timbers helped with the translocation of quail from Florida to Medway Plantation, South Carolina, to restore its once thriving population, devastated by Hurricane Hugo.





Florida State University students observe a gopher tortoise hatchling on a field trip to the Wade Tract Preserve. Photo by Kevin Robertson.

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The Tall Timbers Foundation manages the Tall Timbers Endowment Funds, those long-term assests that help fund research, conservation and support programs at Tall Timbers.

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Angie Cogland was the winning bidder at the Tall Timbers auction for this English cocker spaniel puppy, donated by Ed and Suzy Epp. Photo by Rose Rodriguez.

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Despite the rain, 10 teams played in the 2013 Kate Ireland Memorial Golf Tournament. Undaunted by the weather, Tall Timbers Board Chairman Cornelia Corbett, center, and her team were the winners. Photo by Rose Rodriguez.



The 2013 Naturalists' Ball honored retired Tall Timbers Executive Director Lane Green, who disagreed with Smokey Bear's old anti-fire message. From left to right, Lane Green, Cornelia Corbett, Smokey, Dick Corbett, Cyndi and George Watkins. Photo by Whitney Fletcher.

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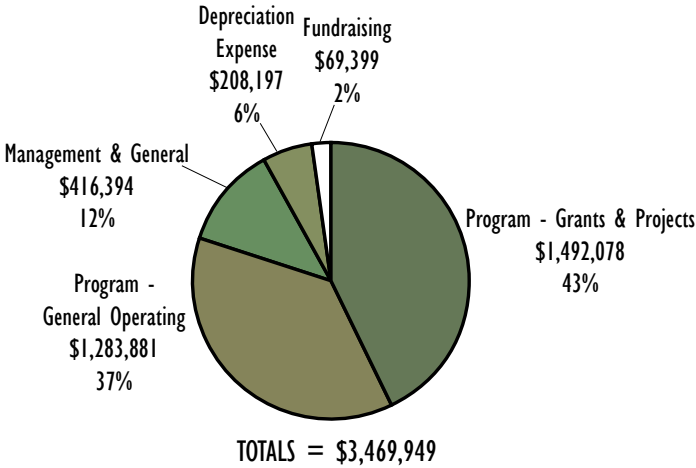
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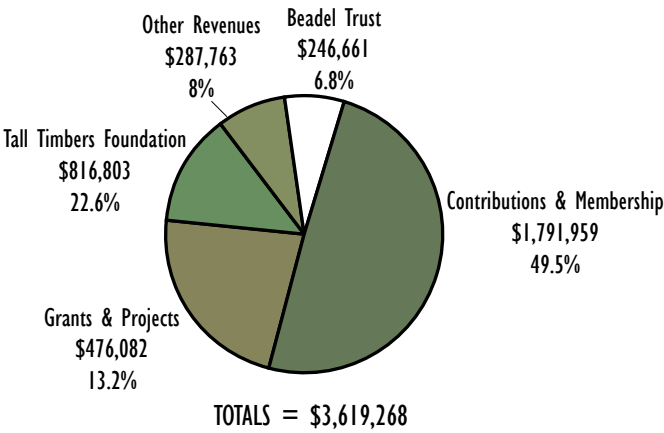
TALL TIMBERS RESEARCH, INC.

	TOTAL ALL FUNDS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
ASSETS	12/31/2013	12/31/2012
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$1,221,774	\$1,015,359
Accounts Receivable	35,599	4,619
Grants/Projects Receivable	105,822	183,146
Pledges Receivable (Net)	50,754	63,261
Due from Tall Timbers Foundation, Inc. (Net)	106,727	32,223
Prepaid Expenses	45,567	34,412
Total Current Assets	\$1,566,243	\$1,333,020
Property & Equipment		
At Cost less Accumulated Depreciation	34,132,165	4,915,832
Other Assets	33,889	33,889
TOTAL ALL ASSETS	\$35,732,297	\$6,282,741
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$49,296	\$57,689
Accrued Liabilities	4,580	26,867
Notes Payable	42,043	33,782
Deferred Revenue	1,937	21,304
Total Liabilities	\$97,856	\$139,642
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$34,193,924	4,941,124
Temporarily Restricted	1,066,393	827,851
Permanently Restricted	374,124	374,124
Total Net Assets	35,634,441	\$6,143,099
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$35,732,297	\$6,282,741

Allocation of Funds



Sources of Revenue



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Graduate student, Jessica Cusick, is a PhD candidate from Florida State University doing nuthatch research on Tall Timbers. Photo by Dale Spartas.

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The Prescribed Fire Training Center (PFTC) held its inaugural June session in 2013. In order to train participants in the ecological use of growing season fire, the Center developed this session in conjunction with a number of its cooperators, including Tall Timbers. The members of this initial module spent a day at Tall Timbers touring the Stoddard Fire Plots, visiting the Wade Tract, and discussing the use of fire for land management to maintain healthy quail populations, sustain wetland ecotones, and protect the red-cockaded woodpecker. Above, Conservation Coordinator, Shane Wellendorf, explains Tall Timbers land management with the PFTC module. Photo by Greg Seamon.

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Caroline Noble, Regional Fire Ecologist
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David Godwin, PhD, Program and Outreach Coordinator



Jim Cox, director of the Stoddard Bird Lab holds a yellow-bellied sapsucker. Photo by Lisa Baggett.

*Grant funded position
P/T = part-time



Research Station & Land Conservancy

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Bobwhite chick is tagged for Game Bird Program study on brood ecology. Photo by volunteer Cliff Preston.