

ANNUAL REPORT

2019 was a remarkable year for Tall Timbers, with strategic ventures and partnerships leveraging the regions fire culture and history to expand the use of prescribed fire and exemplary land stewardship. Collaborations convened by Tall Timbers began exerting a powerful influence on the direction the prescribed fire research and management professions would take over the next decade.

Not since Herbert L. Stoddard's tenure has such a seismic shift been felt in the fire world. Tall Timbers staff has helped to set this direction to understand and model prescribed fire, and to develop predictive tools for managers and prescribed fire trainers. The outcome over the next decade will be a new set of knowledge that can improve predictions of fire behavior, smoke dispersion, and management outcomes and promote the development of a workforce that has the knowledge to apply fire safely to achieve management goals.

The Red Hills region is a working laboratory, and the only landscape in the eastern U.S. where frequent prescribed fire has not left – the results speak for themselves. During the last 60 years, Tall Timbers has served the role of providing sound management information to landowners and managers. This process continues today, but has been expanded to new regions.

Replicating the Red Hills is not possible, but replicating the high biodiversity, tremendous quail numbers, low wildfire risks, high water recharge



and carbon sequestration is. This is why we promote exemplary land stewardship across the country. This is why we continue to fight to protect the Red Hills. It is one of a kind, but doesn't have to be.

Beyond fire, our bobwhite research and conservation program translocated the 6,000th quail from the region to help establish 80,000 acres of new quail lands across the eastern US, including our first translocation to public lands. Research is our ground floor, and our scientists received international recognition for their publications in top academic journals. Our conservation program made great strides developing regional projects that will accelerate protection of critical natural resources, such as the Aucilla River system.

All of this happened under the cloud created by M-CORES. Tall Timbers has been working every day to convince lawmakers and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to kill this wasteful project (https://talltimbers.org/suncoast-connector/). By subverting the normal planning process that FDOT has used for the good of Florida, the legislature decided to build a road in a flood plain, exposed to sea-level rise and storm surge, through the last region of Florida that remains largely agricultural, forested and healthy. And, there is already an under-utilized corridor that exists! We will continue to help provide unbiased information to decision makers until this is resolved.

Ending 2019 and halfway through 2020, the challenges from the coronavirus have been daunting. But, Tall Timbers has been resourceful. We have remained as productive as ever thanks to a diverse group of stakeholders, collaborators, and our constituents. We will continue to meet the challenges ahead in conservation and exemplary lands stewardship. We are ever grateful and mindful of how important your support is to our quest. Thank you.



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Mission

The mission of Tall Timbers is to foster exemplary land stewardship (ELS) 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.

ON THE COVER: Annie Schmidt's conservation easement property, Crooked Creek, contains rare Florida steephead ravines, which have formed a beautiful waterfall. This is among Annie's favorite spots to visit on her property. When asked if we could use this photo for the cover, Annie's response was — WOW!— that she was honored, and that her late husband Jack would have loved that their little Crooked Creek waterfall would be on the cover of our annual report. She added that it was too bad the photo wasn't taken before Hurricane Michael, when the waterfall was two to three times wider! Photo by Shane Wellendorf.

RESEARCH Where Science Meets Management

2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

Tall Timbers Research program had its most productive and impactful years in its history. The level of funding, number of partners, and breadth of activities focused on our mission to expand exemplary land stewardship and the use of prescribed fire was unprecedented.

Science Staff:

- » Produced a total of 61 publications, including 29 published, 8 in-press, 13 submitted and 11 accepted;
- » Gave 99 professional presentations;
- » Submitted approximately \$13.4 million dollars in research grant applications and were awarded approximately \$9 million (including "multi-year" and "up to" amounts).



Science staff at the 2019 Wade Tract event. L-R: Kevin Robertson, Shane Wellendorf (Land Conservancy), Jim Cox, Rob Meyer, Tom Radzio and Scott Pokswinski. Photo by Rose Rodriguez

STODDARD BIRD LAB (SBL)

Efforts continue to restore two rare bird species. We had successful nests for Red-cockaed Woodpeckers on the Dixie property, and also successful nests of Brown-headed Nuthatches on Jonathan Dickinson State Park in southeast Florida.



In 2018, eight Red-cockaded Woodpecker sub-adults were translocated to our Dixie property; in May 2019, this nest with four eggs was discovered by Woodpecker Conservation Specialist Rob Meyer in this nest cavity.

INTERNATIONALLY-ACCLAIMED RESEARCH:

Jim Cox and his colleagues' publication on Brown-headed Nuthatch breeding behaviors was selected as the Editor's Choice article in a recent issue of *Behavioral Ecology*. It was also the subject of an article that appeared in *Current Biology*, which stated, "Cox and colleagues made a major step towards uncovering the role of a demographic trait (adult sex ratio) in a puzzling social behavior (cooperative breeding), and their results

open an exciting avenue for future research into how social information affects breeding systems."

OUTREACH IS FOR THE BIRDS:

The Stoddard Bird Lab conducted frequent public outreach through field trips, presentations, eJournal, eNews, and Firebird e-newsletter publications, field events for landowners (Wade Tract Retrospective), and workshops for public land managers (Coastal Management Workshop; Fla. Department of Environmental Protection Fire Workshop; Prescribed Fire Training Center classes) and an article in Natural History Magazine. The SBL had four presentations at the American Ornithological Society meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, including best student presentation in behavior (Mary Mack Gray).





Thanks to a new grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's RESTORE Science Program, the Stoddard Bird Lab will be studying the effects that fire has in coastal marshes along Florida's Big Bend Coast, like at St. George Island, pictured above. A lot of evidence suggests fires worked into these areas from adjacent pinelands, but how frequently and with what benefits for species such as Black Rail, Yellow Rail, Mottled Duck, Seaside Sparrow, and others is unknown.

FUNDING SUPPORTS CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED BIRDS:

SBL was awarded two significant grants to study the effects of fire in coastal settings along the Big Bend of Florida and to manage Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in the Red Hills region.

At left. Mary Mack Gray with a Brown-headed Nuthatch. She gave the best student presentation at the 2019 American Ornithological Meeting.

CAPTIVE BREEDING RESEARCH SUPPORTS ENDANGERED BIRD:

SBL's research demonstrated that captive-bred juveniles can be successfully translocated and released to help augment wild populations. This research has implications for managing the criticially endangered Florida Grasshopper Sparrrow.

At right, a banded Florida Grasshopper Sparrow spotted through a scope.

Key Publications:

Radzio, T. A., Nicholas J. B., J.A. Cox, D.K. Delaney, and M.P. O'Connor. 2019. Behavior, growth, and survivorship of laboratory-reared juvenile gopher tortoises following hard release. *Endangered Species Research* 40: 17-29.

Cox, J.A., J.A. Cusick, and E.V. DuVal. 2019. Manipulated sex ratios alter group structure and cooperation in the brown-headed nuthatch. *Behavioral Ecology* 30: 883-893.

Han, K, R.T. Kimball, and J.A. Cox. 2019. Testing hypotheses driving genetic structure in the cooperatively breeding Brown-headed Nuthatch *Sitta pusilla*. *Ibis* 161:387-400.



RESEARCH I

GAME BIRD PROGRAM (GBP)

Chick Ecology was the major research focus for the Game Bird Program. Dr. Theron Terhune, GBP Director, oversaw radio-tagging and monitoring of over 350 chicks (>1500 to date) from Florida to North Carolina and was lead author on a critical paper published in the *Journal of Wildlife Management* on chick survival. This 19-year study is the largest, to date, on bobwhite chicks, and the first to publish long-term annual and intra-annual survival estimates for this age group.



RAINFALL AND QUAIL CHICKS:

In 2019, over 60 weather stations were deployed on the Red Hills, Albany Area, and Central Florida study sites to link the timing of rainfall with peak hatches and habitat quality. This is important work given that an increase of only 10% in chick survival may yield a 25% net gain in fall abundance.

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION IN ACTION:

Led by Theron Terhune and Clay Sisson, the 6,000th bobwhite was translocated in 2019, which helped to restore wild birds on more than 80,000 acres. In Florida, a first ever in translocation to public lands occurred to assist in understanding how bobwhite navigate a landscape managed largely by prescribed fire, and to identify limiting factors on public lands.

EXPANSION OF HABITAT RESTORATION EFFORTS CONTINUES:

Carolina Regional Game Bird biologist, Paul Grimes, helped to add more than 3,500 acres of wild quail lands in the Carolinas in 2019, for a total of more than 57,500 acres in the region. Paul documented a 1,011% increase in bobwhite abundance over a 3-year period, following translocation to a property in South Carolina.

Alabama regional biologist, Mark Sasser, now works with 6 properties on over 15,000 acres

At left, a bobwhite chick with radio-telemeter sutured to its back for monitoring the bird in the field. The suturing technique was developed at Tall Timbers by Game Bird Program director, Dr. Theron Terhune.





in the state, and 2 translocation sites that combined are about 6,000 acres.

NEW PROGRAM FLOURISHES:

The East Texas Bobwhite Research Initiative was begun in 2019, designed to champion bobwhite population recovery using research as the as the basis to inform habitat management in the east Texas region. A generous lead gift was received in 2019 to launch the endowment funding efforts for this project; we have put habitat on the ground, and will make an impact in east Texas by mid-2020.

CENTRAL FLORIDA PROJECT GROWS:

The GBP was awarded \$3.4 Million in grants and contracts during 2019, of which more than \$1.2 million directly funded research. This included funding for a second study site in central Florida, added to our Central Florida Bobwhite Research Initiative. Led by regional biologist Geoff Beane, this project is expediting and fostering exemplary land stewardship on working pasturelands and mesic flatwoods.

Key Publications:

Terhune, T.M., Palmer, W.E. and Wellendorf, S.D., 2019. Northern bobwhite chick survival and effects of weather. *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, 83(4), pp. 963-974.

Terhune, T.M., Caudill, D., Terhune, V.H. and Martin, J.A., 2020. A Modified Suture Technique for Attaching Radiotransmitters to Northern Bobwhite Chicks. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*.

At left, is a twelve-day old bobwhite chick consuming mealworms as part of a feed trial to test the efficacy of using DNA metabarcoding to noninvasively sample diets of wild bobwhite chicks from fecal samples collected in the field. Using DNA with field collected samples allows us to take multiple samples from wild birds to see what they are actually eating in relation to where they are and what might be available to them. The purpose is to relate this research to chick survival. Photo by PhD candidate Bradley Kubecka, who is conducting this bobwhite chick research.

RESEARCH ____

PRESCRIBED FIRE RESEARCH

With the growth of the Fire Ecology program (led by Dr. Kevin Robertson) and the Prescribed Fire Science program (led by Kevin Hiers), Tall Timbers created a new position and hired Dr. Morgan Varner as Director of Fire Research. Morgan served as Team Leader for the fire and fuels team at the U.S. Forest Service's Seattle Lab. His goals are to coordinate the recent growth and broaden the national and international impact of Tall Timbers' fire research and outreach programs. Morgan's own research focus is on how trees survive fire and the impediments to prescribed fire,

INTERNATIONAL VOICE FOR SAVANNAS AND GRASSLANDS:

Morgan Varner was among 48 international ecologists who commented in the journal Science on the overzealous tree planting campaigns in savannas, woodlands, and grasslands. The comment was covered by more than 30 international media outlets and sparked discussion over the plant and wildlife value of open ecosystems.

CO-PRODUCING SCIENCE WITH LAND MANAGERS:

Kevin Hiers and Morgan Varner led a national workshop for the US Joint Fire Science Program in Salt Lake City, to define directions of how scientists can work with land managers to produce actionable science. Over 40 participants from federal agencies, NGOs, and universities collab-



CO-PRODUCTION WORKSHOP – Morgan Varner and Kevin Hiers (pictured far left), were tapped by the Joint Fire Science Program to lead a national strategic workshop in Salt Lake City, UT (Oct 28-30, 2019), on how to improve and institutionalize scientist-manager co-production of actionable fire science. Co-production between fire managers and scientists is a method used by Tall Timbers since its inception and is now being embraced by the broader fire science community. Photo by Ellen Eberhardt, US Forest Service.

orated to produce recommendations for science funders and internally for research organizations.

DOCUMENTING FLORIDA AS NATIONAL LEADER IN PRESCRIBED FIRE:

Dr. Kevin Robertson wrote an article in a special issue of *Natural History* on the history and role of Florida as the leader in national prescribed fire policy and implementation. This article and the collection reached a wide audience and introduced them to the region's fire ecology and history.

LESSONS FROM THE WADE TRACT:

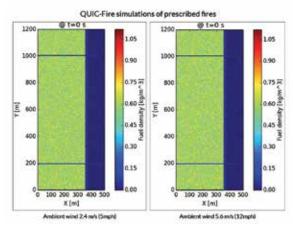
Kevin Robertson's work with graduate students at Yale University and the University of Florida at the Wade Tract reveal the significance of small unburned patches for plant species. In two papers published in a special issue of the journal *Forests*, Kevin and collaborators found that unburned patches served as longleaf pine seedling safe sites, and that different species of plants were found across different aged patches of overstory trees. This work adds to the decades of discoveries at the Wade Tract that reveal how old-growth forests function.

WORK WITH NASA ON PRESCRIBED FIRE SMOKE:

Kevin Hiers, Kevin Robertson, Eric Rowell and collaborators at Florida State University assisted with a large prescribed burn at Blackwater State Forest. Tall Timbers coordinated the NASA flyover, sampled fuels pre- and post-burn, and sampled ground-based emissions during the fire.

MAJOR GRANTS WON FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE:

Kevin Hiers was co-principal investigator on six multimillion-dollar fire research projects to advance fundamental understanding of wildland fire processes and the capacity to model them for managers. This collective, now termed the DoD Wildland Fire Science Initiative, represents a \$23 million investment in fire science which supports Tall Timbers and many partners nationally.



Operationalizing fire models is critical for advancing fire science. QUIC-Fire is able to use FIRETEC inputs of 3D fuels and complex ignitions to produce fire behavior and wind flow.

PRESCRIBED FIRE LEADERSHIP:

The Prescribed Fire Science Consortium, founded at Tall Timbers by Kevin Hiers, continued to lead the nation in the co-production of prescribed fire science. With partners at Los Alamos National Lab and the US Forest Service, their team finalized QUIC-Fire, a next generation fire behavior model. QUIC-Fire is a faster-than-real-time simulation software capable of modeling coupled-fire-atmospheric interactions such as multiple ignition lines used by prescribed fire managers to achieve objectives.

HOSTING SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA:

Fire staff from across Tall Timbers hosted students from the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and included the students' involvement in a prescribed burn and discussions on the connections to Florida ecosystems.

Key publications:

Robertson, K.M., Platt, W.J. and Faires, C.E., 2019. Patchy fires promote regeneration of long-leaf pine (*Pinus palustris* Mill.) in pine savannas. *Forests* 10: 367.

Stephens, S.L., Kobziar, L.N., Collins, B.M., Davis, R., Fulé, P.Z., Gaines, W., Ganey, J., Guldin, J.M., Hessburg, P.F., Hiers, K. and Hoagland, S., 2019. Is fire "for the birds"? How two rare species influence fire management across the US. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 17(7): 391-399.

Kane, J.M., Varner, J.M. and Saunders, M.R., 2019. Resurrecting the lost flames of American chestnut. *Ecosystems* 22(5): 995-1006.

BEADEL FELLOWS:

Dr. J. Richard Carter continued the Wade Tract florula project with Dr. Kevin Robertson, Wilson Baker, and Beadel Fellows Dr. William (Bill) J. Platt and Dr. Gil Nelson, and completed a 10-year survey on population dynamics of *Pteroglossaspis ecristata* (coco orchid) at Arcadia Plantation.

Dr. Bill Platt continued studies of fungal and bacterial communities in pine savannas and long-term study of tree populations in a mapped plot on the Wade Tract (1978-2017). With colleague Dr. Ben Sikes, he continued research to understand the roles of

microbes in fire feedbacks in savannas on ground layer composition and dynamics, now running for five years.

Drs. Jeff Glitzenstein and Donna Streng continued their long-term monitoring research with a focus on propagation and planting of federally-endangered American Chaffseed (*Schwalbea americana*) bunchgrass for restoration on disturbed sites. In addition, they are working with Dr. Raelene Crandall at University of Florida to complete the 34th year census of fire plots at St. Marks Refuge.



LAND CONSERVANCY



In 2019, the Land Conservancy continued to increase the pace of land conservation in our focus areas while responding to infrastructure threats that could undermine the regions' natural resources and rural land-use traditions.

We are making significant progress in diversifying our land conservation tools, including strengthening a watershed level conservation coalition and applying to state and national programs for purchase easements and landowner stewardship funding assistance.



Peter Kleinhenz, Tall Timbers' Aucilla River Watershed Coalition Coordinator

Last year, Tall Timbers was awarded a \$171,000 Healthy Watersheds Consortium grant from the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities. The grant provided funding to hire biologist Peter Kleinhenz for the Aucilla River Watershed Coalition Coordinator position. Peter is working closely with consortium partners and private landowners to conserve the 89-mile-long Aucilla River watershed, which connects the natural pine forests and private conservation lands of the Red Hills to the Florida Gulf Coast and extensive public lands. By the end of 2019, Peter and Conservation Coordinator Shane Wellendorf had submitted a number of other grant proposals to augment Tall Timbers' conservation work.

In April 2020, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) awarded Tall Timbers a grant of up to \$7 million to improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and economic opportunities in both the Aucilla and St. Marks watersheds. In part, matching funds for these grants has been made possible by the generous donation value of conservation easements and in-kind match for land management activities in these watersheds by private landowners.

Beyond grants, the Land Conservancy closed on ten donated conservation easements. These easements protect rare habitats, from steephead streams and ravines in the Florida Panhandle to high quality longleaf pine-wiregrass savannas on hunting plantations in Southwest Georgia.

The easements include Flint River Place and

Margeson Farms with over four miles of Flint River frontage and another phase of Merrily Plantation.

Private landowners and Tall Timbers have now saved and steward over 155,000 acres of conservation easement land and fee properties. We are grateful to the following individuals and families for protecting their land with a donated conservation easement to Tall Timbers:

- » Corbett Family, MEG PHP Tract, FL
- » Chad Gunter, Flint River Place, GA
- » Gerry Hall, Hall-Albany Tract, GA
- » Joseph C. Harvard, Harvard Tract, GA
- » Joseph Lopez & Donald Stine, Fort Hill Farm, GA
- » Richman M. Margeson, Margeson Farms, GA
- » Dr. Jimmy & Kathy Maxwell, Maxwell Farm, GA
- » Merrily Plantation, Inc., Phase II, GA
- » Richard G. Mooney, Hickory Head, GA
- » Anne C. Schmidt, Crooked Creek, FL



Woodstorks and egrets soar over the Flint River Place donated conservation easement proper Photo by Kim Sash taken with a drone camera.

Our Land Conservancy has a strong tradition of providing community planning and advocacy services to ensure the Red Hills region maintains its distinction as one of America's cherished landscapes. That effort is facing its most serious challenge with the politically ill-conceived Suncoast Connector Toll Road.

In 2019 the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 7068, with only one committee hearing, to create the largest expansion of roadways in Florida since the Eisenhower Interstate System of the 1950s.

As envisioned, three new toll roads would span around 350 miles — the proposed Suncoast Connector Toll Road, extending 150+ miles from Citrus County through Jefferson County would directly link the Red Hills to the Florida Turnpike. Critics maintain that the roadway is needless when US 19/27 sits largely empty and underutilized.

Tall Timbers believes that if built, the new Suncoast Connector Toll Road will:

- » Fragment habitat along the route of the toll road corridor;
- » Encourage new sprawling development that will threaten private and public conservation lands and critical wildlife habitat:
- » Alter the flow of freshwater across the extent of the Big Bend, affecting a number of designated Outstanding Florida Waterbodies (including the Aucilla and Econfina rivers) as well as wetlands and estuaries:



Businesses and residents in Jefferson County display signs opposing the Suncoast Connector.

- » Create added challenges to the use of prescribed fire across the Big Bend and in Jefferson County; and
- » Deprive existing rural communities like Monticello of traffic to their historic downtowns (via bypass roads).

The threat of this toll road project to the Red Hills has become Tall Timbers' highest priority. Our three-pronged strategy includes: (1) lobbying governmental officials and suggesting alternatives, (2) developing white papers with consultants on the environmental and economic impacts, and (3) conducting a multi-faceted out-

reach campaign to educate the public and community leaders concerning the potential impacts.

As intended by the legislation, the toll roads are on a fast track for route selection and design with construction to start in late 2022 and full roadway completion by 2030.

Thanks to our generous supporters (see 2019 Support section), Tall Timbers has been able to devote considerable time and financial resources for lobbyists and experts to help with this major advocacy issue. We welcome additional support — our efforts over the next two years are critical to avert the calamity this toll road could have on the Red Hills region.

LAND CONSERVANCY



Above, Brigita Leader, with the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Historic Preservation Office, pauses during a prescribed fire to share stone flakes found during field school at Tall Timbers.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- » Spearheaded Tall Timbers' efforts to oppose the proposed Suncoast Connector toll road through the Red Hills. The transportation project threatens to fragment the region's distinctive rural land and wildlife habitats.
- » Worked on mitigating impacts from Brooks County solar farm and assisted in the development of Leon County's first utility-scale solar ordinance.
- » Completed the Albany Quail Lands Economic Impact Study. The study revealed that in 2018, over \$145 million in economic impact was generated and supported 1,164 jobs from quail hunting properties.
- » Closed on ten donated conservation easement transactions. Now, 155,139 acres are permanently protected by Tall Timbers via donated easements and fee properties.
- » Awarded \$171,250 Healthy Watersheds Consortium matching grant from U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities to support land conservation transactions and prioritization in the Aucilla River watershed.
- » Awarded \$75,000 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant for wetland restoration at Tall Timbers and Dixie and Chemonie Plantations.
- » Collaborated with Wildland Fire Science Program to host field school for youth from the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma to help reconnect to Florida's ancestral lands and deep history of managing land with fire.
- » Conducted first prescribed fire at the Longleaf Learning Landscape at Maclay School.
- » Hosted Red Hills Spring Dinner at the Dixie House on April 4, 2019. Some 200 guests enjoyed keynote speaker Stephanie Meeks, former President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Thanks to our dinner sponsors who raised \$75,000 for the Dixie House restoration.
- » Tall Timbers recognized by Leon County Commission for outstanding research and conservation achievement and service for 61 years in Leon County, Red Hills, and the Southeast.

TALL TIMBERS SOCIETY

Tall Timbers Society members are friends who make a significant and sustaining impact on our ability to accomplish our mission through their generous cumulative annual giving.

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At Four Oaks, game bird program director Theron Terhune, and woods manager/hunt master Wyatt Epp discuss quail management during the 2019 Red Hills Fall Field Day. Photo by Rose Rodriguez



Hills Fall Field Day. Photo by Rose Rodriguez

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Longleaf Learning Landscap

LONGLEAF LEARNING LANDSCAPE - In January 2019, Tall Timbers completed the planting of a new longleaf and fire education plot with Thomas County Central High students. Brian Wiebler, the Red Hills Outreach & Education Coordinator spearheaded the project. Dubbed the Longleaf Learning Landscape, this plot was a year in the making and was funded by the Georgia Forestry Foundation. The longleaf and wiregrass plugs were donated by the International Forest Company, Photos by Brian Wiebler

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Reptile & Amphibian Work on Greenwood Plantation

Tree & Lidar Measures for the Wade Tract Preserve





with the Stoddard Bird Lab, removed a pair of

Red-cockaded Woodpecker hatchlings from a cavity

This research is sponsored by the National Fish and

tree on Dixie Plantation to weigh and band them.

Wildlife Foundation. Photos by Rose Rodriguez

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Stephanie Meeks, above, was the keynote speaker at the 2019 Red Hills Spring Dinner held at Dixie Plantation. Stephanie was the former president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In addition to celebrating land conservation in the Red Hills, the biennial event also raised funds to help complete the Dixie House restoration and rehabilitation project. Photo by Rose Rodriguez

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Left to right: Tall Timbers President/CEO Bill Palmer, author and journalist Eddie Nickens, Chef Chris Hastings and guest speaker, fishing legend and avid turkey hunter, Flip Pallot at the 14th Annual Georgia-Florida Turkey Invitational. Photo by Gabriel Hanway

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Property manager Jay Kimbrell, above, gave a presentation on the history and management of Four Oaks, the host property for the Red Hills Fall Field Day. Photo by Rose Rodriguez

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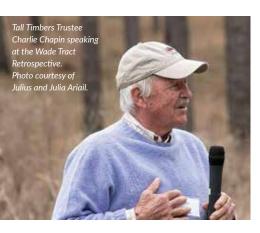
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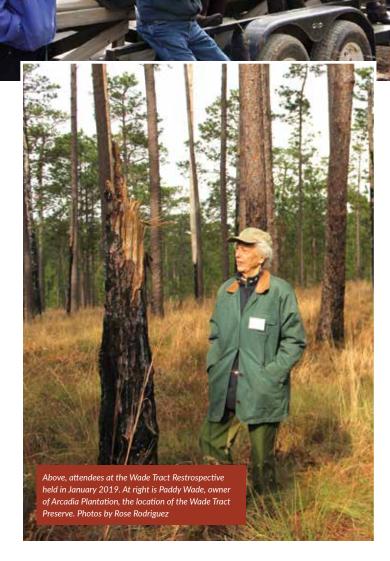
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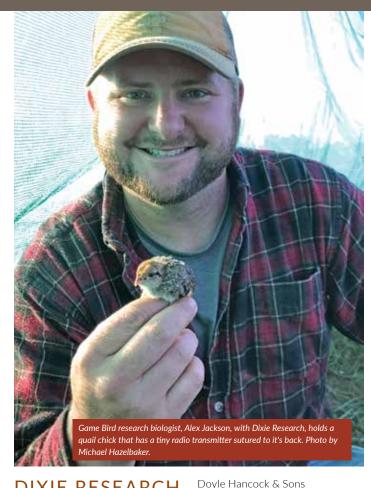
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Below, American Friends of Attingham, which supports the work of The Attingham Trust, a British educational charitable organization, toured Dixie House as part of a study trip on Red Hills' architecture.



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Above, fire ecologist Cinnamon Dixon is in a pre-fire plot in long fire-excluded pine flatwoods on the St. Joseph Buffer Preserve near Port St. Joseph. In 2019, the Fire Ecology Program began a study to quantify re-emergence of native plants upon re-introduction of fire to long fire-excluded native pine communities like this site at the Buffer Preserve. Florida. Photo by Kevin Robertson.



TALL TIMBERS FOUNDATION

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.

TALL TIMBERS FOUNDATION FNDOWMENT FUNDS

- » Albany Quail Endowment
- » Bird Window Endowment
- » Chuck Ribelin Brood Ecology Research Fellowship
- » Clifton J. Bailey Endowment
- » Corbett Fire Endowment
- » Dixie Plantation Endowment
- » Forestry Endowment
- » Gerry Game Bird Endowment
- » General Operating Endowment
- » Land Conservancy Endowment
- » Red Hills Land Conservation Opportunity Fund
- » Tall Timbers Land Conservancy Stewardship Fund
- » Texas Piney Woods Quail Endowment
- » Wade Tract Endowment
- » Wildlife Research Endowment

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Board Chairman, Tom Rankin, presents a bronze plaque to honoree Gene Phipps at the Tall Timbers' 22nd Annual Kate Ireland Memorial Dinner & Auction. Photo by Rose Rodriguez

Parker Poe Charitable Trust Laurie and Tom Patrick

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HONORARIUMS

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Mr. Roy J. McCraw Jr. in honor of Tom Rankin

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh A. Merrill in honor of Edmund "Beaver" Hardy

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Mr. and Mrs. James L. Schortemeyer in honor of Jim Cox and Eric Staller Mr. Michael H. Sheridan in honor of Jim Cox

Mr. Reggie Thackston in honor of Dr. George and Lindi Simmons

Sid Weatherly, The Little Garden Club in honor of Dr. Sam Gray

Mrs. Teresa E. Williams in honor of Jim Cox

MEMORIALS.

Ms. Silvia Alderman in memory of George Willson

Mr. Mack A. Barfield Jr. in memory of Alvin Grubbs

Mr. Monty C. Ferrell in memory of Walter Sidney Gainey

Mr. Bernie Hyde in memory of Peggy Post

Ms. Ann F. Johnson in memory of George Willson

Dr. Kristin E. Kentopp M.D. MPH in memory of Kate Ireland

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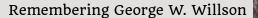
Mr. Richard Vann in memory of Mr. Dan Whitehurst

Ms. Kathleen Villacorta in memory of George Willson

Ms. Susan B. Whiting in memory of Flip Harrington

Mr. John S. Wise Jr. in memory of Henry A. Wise, V

Mr. Gerald R. Wolsfelt in memory of M.A. Victoria Chubb Wolsfelt



When Board member George W. Willson passed in 2019, Floridians and the Tall

Timbers community lost one of the most accomplished land conservationists in the state.

George has been attributed with saving nearly one million acres of environmentally sensitive land from the Keys to the Panhandle. "Probably nobody that's has ever been involved in land acquisition in Florida has done more than George Willson. He spent four decades fighting to preserve Florida's ecology," said Estus Whitfield, former principal environmental advisor to four Florida governors.

With laser precision of his Marine Corps training, George was the consummate "deal maker," negotiating fairly with private landowners to save incredible tracts of land from development threat. As Director of Land Acquisition for the Florida chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) from 1984-1999, he was in command in securing vast properties, like the 18,000-acre Walton County tracts that later became Topsail Hill Preserve State Park and Point Washington State Forest.

After leaving TNC, George became Vice-President for Conservation Lands at the St. Joe Company; at that time, the company transferred from its portfolio to the State key holdings for public benefit and enjoyment.

Since 1989, George had a long association with Tall Timbers. He was one of the founding members of the Red Hills Conservation Association, the precursor of today's Tall Timbers Land Conservancy. He was instrumental in guiding Tall Timbers to become one of the nation's leading accredited land trusts. His spirit will live on and his lasting legacy will be enjoyed by this and future generations who experience the special natural places he so dedicatedly saved and loved.



Consortium meeting of the Red Hills Conservation Association at Tall Timbers, c. 1989. George Willson is pictured second from left in white shirt.

2019 STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

William E. Palmer, PhD, President/CEO
Melissa Proctor, Controller, Chief Financial Officer

Lisa Baggett, Facilities Coordinator Rachelle Culpepper, Accounting Assistant

Jarama Caldan Facilities

Jerome Golden, Facilities

Kurt Haffner, IT Systems Coordinator

Stephen Macdonald, Bookkeeper

Rosi Nichols, HR/PR Coordinator

Joe Noble, GIS/Information Technology Program Director Jennifer Roberts, Facilities Director, Executive Assistant

Hunter Taylor, Accounting Assistant

Jenny Taylor, Receptionist/Administrataive Assistant

DEVELOPMENT

Crystal Rice Development Director Amy Allen, Development Coordinator

INFORMATION RESOURCES

Kim Sash, Conservation Biologist

Rose Rodriguez, Communications Director Juanita Whiddon, P/T Archives, & Historical Resources

LAND CONSERVANCY

Kevin McGorty, Director

Neil Fleckenstein, Red Hills Planner Jessica Coker, Administrative Assistant Josh Gamblin, Conservation Stewardship Manager Brian R. McClain, Lesson Plan Developer Peter Kleinhenz, Aucilla Watershed Coalition Coordinator

Bourtamathan

Shane D. Wellendorf, Conservation Coordinator
Brian Wiebler, Red Hills Outreach/Education Coordinator
Michael Zang, Conservation Technician

RESEARCH & LAND MANAGEMENT

William E. Palmer, PhD, Director of Research Billy Atkins, Central Florida Rangeland Research (CFRRP) Thomas Anderson, Joint Training Academy Instructor Mary Armstrong, Fire Ecology Outreach Specialist Robert Bale, Sr. Wildland Fire Specialist

Andrea Barstow, P/T Office Manager, Dixie Plantation **Geoff Beane**, Research/Program Manager, CFRRP

Steven Bennett, Joint Training Academy Instructor

Shannon Braden, Land Management Technician, Dixie Plantation

Sarah K. Brown, Public Lands Monitoring Coordinator

Jeremiah Cates, Private Lands Burn Team Coordinator

Andrew Chase, Assistant Land Manager

Missouri Cook, Carolina Development Coordinator

Philip Coppola, Post Doctorate Scholar

Jim Cox, Stoddard Bird Lab Director

Dixie Davis, Geospatial Data Base Administrator

Austin Dixon, P/T Fire Science Technician

Cinnamon Dixon, Ecosystems Services Project Coordinator

Victa Edge, Joint Training Academy Instructor

Nathan Eldridge, Game Bird Technician

Alexis Everland, Lead Fire Ecology Research Technician

Steve Flanagan, Post-doctoral Fellow

Randy Floyd, Plantation Manager, Dixie Plantation

Troy Floyd, Joint Training Academy Instructor

Maris Gabliks, Sr. Wildland Fire Specialist

Jimmy Gray, Joint Training Academy Instructor

Mary Mack Gray, Stoddard Bird Lab Biologist

Paul Grimes, Regional Game Bird Biologist

David Grimm, Land Management and Private Lands Burn Team

Robert Gundy, Stoddard Bird Lab Field Technician

Robert Guse, Joint Training Academy Instructor

Gloria Hagan, Facilities, Dixie Plantation

Tommy Hawkins, Joint Training Academy Instructor

Christie Hawley, Fire Science Technician

Tucker Heaberlin, Wildlife Technician

Berlynna Heres, Fire Science Technician

J. Kevin Hiers. Wildland Fire Scientist

At left from L-R: Neil Fleckenstein, Tall Timbers Planning Coordinator, Bryan Desloge, Leon County Commissioner, and Bill Palmer, Tall Timbers President/CEO. Tall Timbers was honored by the Leon County Commission for its contributions over more than 60 years as a leader in natural resource research, land conservation, and education.



Staff who helped at the 2019 Georgia-Florida Turkey Invitational. From left to right, Jennifer Roberts, Amy Allen, Crystal Davis, Katie Hooker and Shelby Simons.

Corbin Holder, Game Bird Technician, Orton Plantation Kelsey Hoskins, Wildlife Technician

Alex Jackson, Game Bird Biologist, Dixie Plantation

Maren Johnson, Fire Research Technician

Charles Kressler II, Prescribed Fire Technician

Christopher Kunkle, Game Bird Technician, CFRRP

Matthew Kunkle, Rollins Ranch Research & Program Manager

Michael Lamb, Wildlife Technician

William H Lewis, Land Management Technician, Dixie Plantation

William Lutz, Game Bird Technician, CFRRP

Kyle Magdziuk, Game Bird Lead Technician

Steven Matta, Wildlife Technician

John-Michael McCormick, Asst. Land Manager, Dixie Plantation

Diana McGrath, Game Bird Biologist

Rob Meyer, Woodpecker Conservation Biologist

Molly Neely-Burnam, P/T Game Bird Technician

Milton Neu, Assistant Land Manager

Matthew Nolasco, Lidar Analyst Research Technician

Kodi Osborn, Wildlife Technician

Richard Paulhamus, Assistant Program Manager, CFRRP

Scott Pokswinski, Research Biologist, Prescribed Fire Science

Matthew Portwood, Game Bird Technician, Dixie Plantation

Grayson Reinbott, Land Management Technician, Dixe Plantation

David Reid, Joint Training Academy Instructor

Hannah Redford, Wildland Fire Science Technician

 $\textbf{Kevin M. Robertson,} \ \mathsf{PhD}, \ \mathsf{Director}, \ \mathsf{Fire} \ \mathsf{Ecology} \ \mathsf{Program}$

Eric Rowell, PhD, Wildland Fire Scientist

P/T = Part Time

2019 Staff continued on next page

2019 STAFF

Elliot Schunke, Stoddard Bird Lab Techician (Temp)

Greg Seamon, Fire Training Specialist, Prescribed Fire Training Center Sierra Sico. Game Bird Research Technician. Orton Plantation

Clay Sisson, Director Albany Quail Project/DPR

Matt Snider, Private Lands Prescribed Fire Coordinator

Allison Snyder, Fire Ecology Technician

Kyle Spells, Public Lands Vegetation Technician

Eric Staller, Director of Land Management and Fire Operations

Lindsey Stawowy, Stoddard Bird Lab Field Assistant

Larkin Stiles, Wildland Fire Science Technician

Jason Stockstill, Fire Science Technician

Destinee Story, Stoddard Bird Lab Woodpecker Technician

Gianna Tarquinio, Stoddard Bird Lab Field Technician

Austin Taylor, Land Management Technician

Theron M. Terhune, PhD, Director Game Bird Research Program

Christopher Terrazas, Wildlife Technician

Casey Teske, PhD, Spatial Fire Ecologist

Miles Threadgill, Herpetology Technician

James Tucker, UERP Field Technician

J. Morgan Varner, PhD, Director of Fire Science

Dauten Vaughn, Land Management Technician, Dixie Plantation

Stoney Vickers, Field Technician, CFRRP

Derek Wallace. Fire Science Research Assistant

Scott Ward, UERP Field Technician

Leslie Whiddon, Land Management Technician, Dixie Plantation

Adam White, Game Bird Technician, Albany Quail Project

Charles Wilder, Jr., Joint Training Academy Instructor





Game Bird Program intern, Destinee Story, holds a quail chick that has been tagged on his wing. Photo by Brad Kubecka

Susan Wilder, Joint Training Academy Instructor Robert Wilken, Joint Training Academy Instructor Seth Williams, Fire Technician

Audrey Wilson, Fire Science Research Biologist William Woodyard, Joint Training Academy Instructor

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Bobbi Carpenter, University of Florida, Game Bird
Dana Carpenter, University of Georgia, Fire Science
Laura "Ellie" Fowler, University of Georgia, Fire Science
Michael Hazelbaker, University of Georgia, Game Bird
Justin Hill, University of Georgia, Game Bird
Katie Hooker, University of Florida, Game Bird
Heather Levy, University of Georgia, Stoddard Bird Lab
Adam McClure, Virginia Tech, Fire Science
Morgan Morehart, Auburn University, Game Bird
Emily Prosser, University of Georgia, Game Bird
Justin Rectenwald, University of Georgia, Albany Quail Program
David Robinson, Florida State University, Fire Science
Daniel Rosales-Giron, Florida State University, Fire Science
Shelby Simons, University of Georgia, Game Bird
Andrew Ward, University of Georgia, Game Bird

Staff who helped with check-in and check-out at the 2019 Kate Ireland Memorial Dinner & Auction. From left to right: Rosi Nichols, Melissa Proctor and Jessica Coker. Photo by Rose Rodriguez

INTERNS

Jakob Ackerman, FL, Fire Science

Alicia Arsenault, MA. Game Bird, Rollins Ranch

Rachel Bockrath, CA, Game Bird

Shannon Braden, TN, Game Bird, Dixie Plantation

Matthew Burke, FL, Game Bird

Alexis Chavez, FL, Game Bird

Matthew Cooper, GA, Game Bird

Darlene Coppe, SD, Game Bird

Bethany Frantz, CA, Game Bird, CFRRP

William Harp, GA, Game Bird, CFRRP/Rollins Ranch

Hayden Jakob, NC, Game Bird, Orton

Kelsey Hoskins, KY, Game Bird

Nichole Itzkowitz, CT, Game Bird CFRRP

Charles Jacobi, TN, Herpatology

Maren Johnson, FL, Fire Science

Madeleine Kaleta, NY, Game Bird, CFRRP

Jonathan Kearney, MD, Game Bird, CFRRP

Dakota Kempken, TX, Game Bird, CFRRP

Megan Kruse, WI, Game Bird, Rollins Ranch

Aubrey Langston, GA, Game Bird

Juliana Ofalt, PA, Game Bird, Orton Plantation

Elizabeth Patterson, NC, Game Bird, Orton Plantation

Maya Payne-Wiens, NC Fire Science

Matthew Portwood, GA, Game Bird, Dixie Plantation Research

Gracie Rivera, FL, Game Bird, Dixie Plantation Research

Antonio Rodriguez, FL, Fire Ecology

Louie Sandstrum, FL, Fire Ecology

Erin Saylor, FL. Stoddard Bird Lab

Amanda Schmidt, NM, Game Bird, CFRRP

Sierra Sico, MA, Game Bird, Orton Plantation

Jason Stockstill, GA, Fire Science

Destinee Story, GA, Game Bird

Christopher Terrazas, GA, Game Bird

Ream W Thomas, GA, Fire Science

Katelyn Thompson, KS, Game Bird, CFRRP

Miles Threadgill, GA, Game Bird

Zach Vickers, GA, Stoddard Bird Lab

Trenton Voytko, NC, Game Bird

Breanne Ward, FL, Fire Ecology

Sarah Welch, TX, Game Bird

Hunter Williams, NC, Game Bird, Orton Plantation

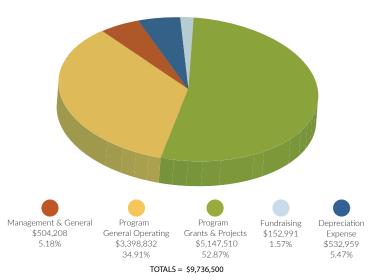
2019 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

TALL TIMBERS RESEARCH, INC.

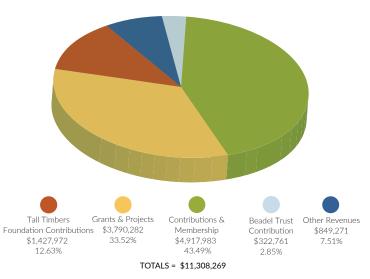
Includes Subsidiaries

	TOTAL ALL FUNDS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
ACCETS		
ASSETS	12/31/2018	12/31/2019
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$2,115,929	\$2,734,724
Accounts Receivable	438,334	505,976
Grants/Projects Receivable	21,500	-
Due from Tall Timbers Foundation, Inc. (Net)	40,613	-
Prepaid Expenses	30,011	19,652
Total Current Assets	\$2,646,387	\$3,260,352
Property & Equipment		
At Cost less Accumulated Depreciation	\$36,016,578	\$37,126,302
Other Assets	34,419	34,419
TOTAL ALL ASSETS	\$38,697,384	\$40,421,073
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	199,114	375,578
Accrued Liabilities	37,789	21,084
Notes Payable	119,105	143,903
Deferred Revenue	166,289	133,652
Total Liabilities	\$522,297	\$674,217
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	34,385,959	32,381,722
With Donor Restrictions	3,789,128	7,365,134
Total Net Assets	\$38,175,087	\$39,746,856
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$38,697,384	\$40,421,073

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS



SOURCES OF REVENUE





13093 Henry Beadel Drive Tallahassee, FL 32312 850/893-4153 PH | 850/893-6470 FAX www.talltimbers.org



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