



News Release

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LOCAL FORESTRY PROS GET STATE HONORS

Employees of the Georgia Forestry Commission's Satilla District in the southeast region of the state have been recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in serving Georgia citizens. The Satilla District was named 2015 District of the Year for furthering the agency's mission of providing "leadership, service and education in the protection and conservation of Georgia's forest resources." The district encompasses 17 counties, has its headquarters in Waycross, and includes the cities of Valdosta, Douglas, and Jesup.

"These Georgia Forestry Commission professionals exemplify unwavering dedication and skill," said Georgia Forestry Commission Director, Robert Farris. "They were chosen as the very best among an incredible group of colleagues for their work in wildfire prevention and suppression, forestry management services, safety, training and much more."

The Georgia Forestry Commission annually acknowledges state districts and county units for meeting and exceeding measurable agency goals, including the number of miles of firebreaks plowed and harrowed, number of acres prescribe burned, wildfire reduction and education outreach. In January, the Georgia State Legislature presented a resolution honoring the Georgia Forestry Commission's 2015 District of the Year winner at the state capitol.

The Satilla District was chosen from among the agency's six districts for leading the state in overall workload per employee by a large margin. Satilla led the GFC Districts in prescribe burning and in the number of Forest Stewardship Plans written for landowners with 244 cases per forester. The group also achieved an excellent score of 93.2% on Best Management Practice implementation rates for wildfire and pre-suppression firebreaks. Additional forest management activities at Dixon State and Broxton Rocks Forests, hand planting 3,000 trees in a progeny test for Florida Loblolly Pine, and building renovations also highlighted Satilla District achievements.

"The ability of these professionals to work together with limited personnel resources and surpass the goals of the work group is tremendous," Farris said. "They take great pride in their jobs and are absolutely devoted to their co-workers and their fellow Georgians."

To learn more about the services of the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit GaTrees.org.

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