

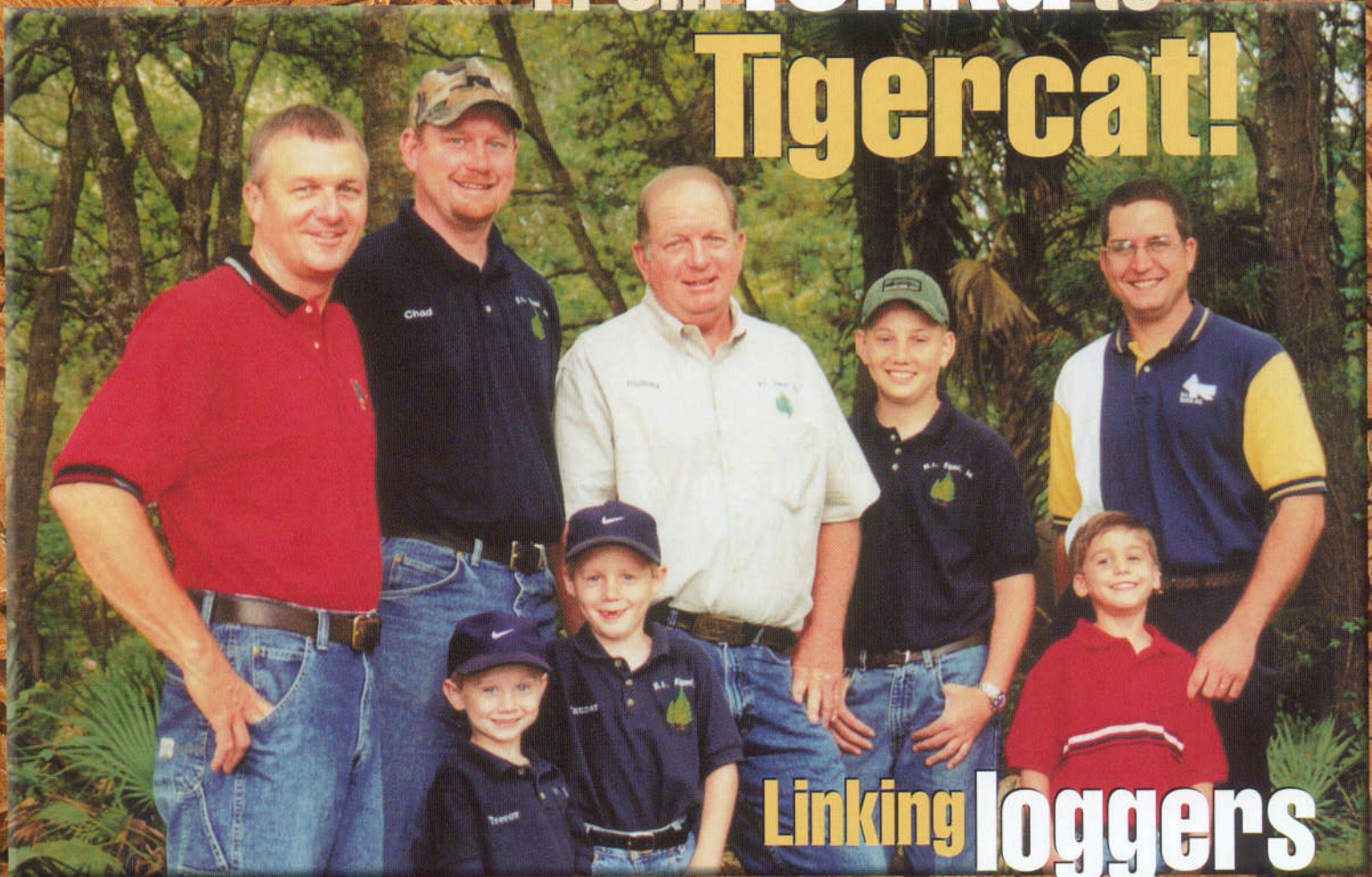
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FORESTS

Summer 2002

An Official Publication of the Florida Forestry Association

Vol. 6 • Issue 3

From **Tonka** to
Tigercat!



Linking loggers
to the future

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Florida Forests is an official publication of the Florida Forestry Association
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Florida Forests is published tri-annually by:

Naylor Publications, Inc.
5931 NW 1st Place
Gainesville, FL 32607
Phone: 800-369-6220
or 352-332-1252
Fax: 352-332-3331
Web: www.naylor.com

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PUBLISHED JULY 2002 • FOR-T0202

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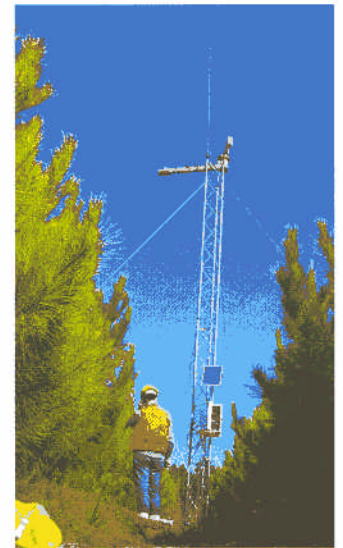
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Rodney Schwab, center, and Gary Brett, left, with the future of M.A. Rigoni, Inc.

Photograph by Celeste Nichols

feature



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Finding the Keys to Unlock the Productivity of Southern Forests

By Brian Roth, Tim Martin, Eric Jokela, and Tim White



Forestlands in the South are facing challenging issues in today's world. As our agricultural land base decreases due to urbanization, the public's appetite for wood products continues to grow. Competition from foreign countries is gaining strength, making efficiency in our forests more and more essential to meet market demand.

The University of Florida's Forest Biology Research Cooperative (FBRC) is wasting no time in researching the productivity of our forests by employing intensive forest management practices, while protecting the health and sustainability of these important ecosystems. Relatively new, the five-year-old cooperative involves scientists from the fields of silviculture, soils, genetics, pathology, physiology, and biological-process modeling. The primary focus of the multidisciplinary research is centered on two large state-of-the-art field experiments spanning the South: Pine Productivity Interactions Experimental Sites (PPINES) and Comparing Clonal Lines On Experimental Sites (CCLONES).

The PPINES's overall goal is to compare different genotypes of slash and loblolly pine families over a range of soil and climate conditions, spacings, and silvicultural treatments. Scientists will also study the underlying mechanisms controlling the production ecology of these genotypes so that advanced

forest management systems can be developed.

The CCLONES research will characterize the biology and performance of elite genotypes of slash and loblolly pine parents, families, and clones across a range of soil and climate conditions and different silvicultural treatments. In total, 916 different genotypes varieties of each species will be studied to track performance for growth, disease resistance, and drought tolerance. Specifically, the goal will be to better understand species growth strategies and performance to aid in the development of advanced management systems that will sustain forest health and productivity for the future by matching specific genotypes to certain soil types and environments.

Although the two field experiments broke ground two short years ago, studies are already yielding valuable information. Results from the research will help professional forest managers in determining the benefits and risks of growing genetically improved pines on different sites and intensities of management.

Brian Roth, Tim Martin, Eric Jokela, and Tim White are all researchers at the University of Florida Forest Biology Research Cooperative. For more information log onto <http://fbrc.ifas.ufl.edu> or contact Dr. Tim White, FBRC director, at 352-846-0900.



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1. Automated weather towers at each PPINES location record climatic and soil variables for process models. Photo by Andreas Coveney.
2. A two-year-old slash pine is prepared for destructive sampling at a PPINES site near Waldo, Fla. Photo by Brian Roth.
3. A root system of a two-year-old slash pine excavated to study below ground processes. Photo by Brian Roth.
4. David Adams of Foley Timber and Land Company stands in front of two-year-old loblolly pine at a PPINES site near Perry, Fla. Photo by Brian Roth.

Feature - Finding the Keys to Unlock the Productivity of Southern Forests



5. Dr. Tim Martin measuring photosynthesis rates in a two-year-old loblolly pine near Madison, Fla. Photo by Brian Roth.
6. Researchers from three universities pose with their two-year-old loblolly experiment. From left to right: Mr. Stephen Logan, University of Georgia (UGA); Dr. Barry Shiver, UGA; Dr. Thomas Fox, Virginia Tech; Dr. Timothy White, University of Florida (UF); Dr. Eric Jokela, UF; Mr. David Adams (Foley Timber and Land Company); and Dr. Bruce Borders, UGA.

Forest Biology Research Cooperative Membership

Industrial cooperators and institutions support the FBRC through salary and institutional support, annual monetary dues and in-kind contributions in the form of field study installation and maintenance. Most importantly, the cooperators guide FBRC research programs and help to place research within an applied context. There are two types of membership: full and contributing. Full membership is open to all private and public organizations that own or manage southern pine timberlands, while contributing membership is open to all state agencies and product vendors. Contributing members pay one-third the dues of full members and are encouraged, but not required, to provide in-kind support which entitles them to all FBRC summary reports, FBRC staff expertise, and attendance at FBRC meetings. However, voting rights, raw data, and access to genetic material and identities remains limited to full membership.

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