

2018 Regional Longleaf Award Recipients Announced

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The Longleaf Alliance Press Contact

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Every two years, individuals, private landowners, land managers, wildlife biologists, conservation groups, consultants, university researchers, forestry professionals, agency and outreach personnel gather for the best and largest longleaf event in the nation: The Biennial Longleaf Conference.

The Biennial Longleaf Conference, hosted by The Longleaf Alliance, is a regional conference focused on the restoration and conservation of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem that once dominated the landscape of the southeastern United States. Highlights at this year's event at the Holiday Inn Alexandria - Downtown include: welcome reception, concurrent sessions, all-day field trip, evening celebration and Recognition & Awards Luncheon for the four hundred attendees.

The Recognition & Awards Luncheon will take place onsite at the beautiful Holiday Inn Alexandria – Downtown on October 24, 2018 at 12:00pm. The presentation is of significant importance as the twelve Regional Longleaf Awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made exemplary contributions to longleaf restoration across the range.

Individual Awards & Award Recipients

The Bill Boyer Natural Resource Professional of the Year Award: recognizes a natural resource professional who has made outstanding contributions within the field of longleaf ecosystem conservation – *Nathan Klaus, Georgia Department of Natural Resources*

The Palustris Corporate Achievement Award: recognizes a corporation with long-standing commitment toward conservation of the longleaf ecosystem – *Roundstone Native Seed Company*

The Gjerstad/Johnson Landowner of the Year Award: recognizes a private landowner for ensuring the future of the longleaf ecosystem on private land – *David Daigle of Alexandria, LA*

The Burner Bob Award: recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding efforts in championing prescribed fire to ensure the future of the longleaf ecosystem on private land – *Jesse Wimberley, NC Sandhills Prescribed Burn Association*

True Longleaf Champion Awards: recognize a lifetime of dedication to the conservation and restoration of the South's iconic forest – *Vivian Beech of Grand Bay Alabama; Luther Jones, Natural Resources Conservation Service (retired); Clay Ware, US Fish and Wildlife Service (retired).*

Conservation Partner Awards & Award Recipients

Natural Resource Conservation Service Team Achievement Award: recognizes an NRCS team that has gone above-and-beyond the call of duty in delivering longleaf restoration for private landowners - *NRCS Chesterfield County SC Field Office.*

Department of Defense Team Achievement Award: recognizes a DOD team that has excelled in managing and restoring the longleaf ecosystem on Military Installations – *Georgia Sentinel Landscape Team.*

US Fish and Wildlife Service Team Achievement Award: recognizes a USFWS team for their exemplary management and restoration of the longleaf ecosystem for wildlife. – North Carolina Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

USDA Forest Service Team Achievement Award: recognizes a USDA FS team that has significantly improved and expanded the management and restoration of the Longleaf ecosystem on and around the National Forest System – US Forest Service Million Acre Challenge Team

Non-Profit Conservation Partner Award: recognizes a non-profit organization that has significantly improved, protected and conserved the longleaf ecosystem – The Nature Conservancy

The Longleaf Alliance extends our sincere gratitude to these teams and individuals for their positive efforts to conserve the longleaf forest. “We are truly humbled by the level of support and advocacy these individuals and organizations display for the longleaf pine. Without their unwavering and exemplary contributions, we could not ensure a sustainable future of the longleaf pine ecosystem.” said Longleaf Alliance President, Robert Abernethy.

The Longleaf Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization. First organized in 1995, The Longleaf Alliance operates throughout the southeastern United States from Virginia to Texas helping landowners restore their land to functioning longleaf forests while generating income from the very same forest that provides homes for some of the South’s most threatened plant and animal species.



The Longleaf Alliance