Lane Green Tribute

Lane Green, who was the Executive Director of Tall Timbers for 22 years until his retirement in 2012, has passed after a prolonged illness. In retirement Lane pursued his passions: time with family, hunting, travel, playing baseball and managing his family land. He will be dearly missed by the many who worked, hunted or played with him.

As word spread that Lane had passed, Tall Timbers has heard from many who considered him a mentor, a friend and always an educator. They remember the notes of appreciation he sent to them as volunteers, and whose time and talent continue to make a difference for Tall Timbers. He was beloved in the neighborhood by the tenant families who lived at Tall Timbers before it became a research station; he grew up with them and appreciated their families' contributions in preserving the landscape.

During Lane's tenure at Tall Timbers, much was accomplished under his leadership. The organization's annual contributions increased more than 50-fold; 120,000 acres in the greater Red Hills region and Albany area had been donated to Tall Timbers as conservation easements (now over 150,000 acres); and during the 50th Anniversary Campaign millions were raised to sustain the organization's research, conservation and education mission. Lane left Tall Timbers on sound financial footing.

Lane first came to Tall Timbers in 1990 as the Director of the Red Hills Conservation Association (RHCA), a conservation group whose mission was to protect the scenic, ecological and historical resources and traditional land uses in the community. Tall Timbers had been a research station since it was incorporated in 1958 as a private, charitable organization, Tall Timbers Research, Inc. By the end of 1990, RHCA had merged with Tall Timbers Research Station and Lane was chosen as the first Executive Director of the newly combined organization in 1991. At the end of his first decade at the helm, he had led the organization through its first strategic planning process, which clarified the organization's vision and mission going forward. In 2009, Tall Timbers became one of the first accredited land trusts in the nation.

When he was Executive Director, Lane was the public face of Tall Timbers, especially promoting prescribed fire. He was featured on a series of Red Hills Reports produced by WCTV in the early 1990s. And, he talked about the importance of prescribed fire in numerous public service announcements that have run locally and on TV and radio stations throughout Florida. He also led a 13 southern state effort to increase promotion of prescribed burning, One Message Many Voices. As a result, Lane had been involved in many professional and community service organizations; the most notable were: the North Florida Prescribed Fire Council; Georgia Prescribed Fire Council; founding member of the National Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils; Florida Governor Lawton Chiles' Wildfire Mitigation Task Force (1999). Because of his exemplary work in land conservation, he was appointed to the Florida Acquisition and Restoration Council by Governor Jeb Bush in 2006.

Lane had a long history of community service. He served on many boards including: the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Chairman, 4-H Youth Advisory Board, FL Heritage Foundation, Birdsong Nature Center Board of Trustees, Alzheimer Resource Center Board of Directors, and the Water Resource Advisory Committee for Leon County. He was a graduate of Leadership Tallahassee (Class V) and Leadership Florida (Class XIII). Among Lane's many awards are: The Distinguished Community Leadership Award (1998), and the Distinguished Servant Leadership Award (2004).