

FOREST EDUCATION

The GFC continues its efforts to educate the general public about forestry operations and fire prevention. Georgia's timber industry now contributes over \$39.1 billion dollars annually to the State's economy (a \$3.1 billion increase from 2021). With 64% of Lowndes county's acreage being forested, the GFC strives to convey the importance of forestry operations in our everyday life, as well as the importance of proper fire prevention.

Unfortunately, our community is still affected by the Covid-19 pandemic which has impacted GFC's public outreach programs. However, employees in Lowndes were still able to invest 78.5 hours through 9 programs. These included teaching children about fire safety through our Smokey Bear program, and advising young adults about Forestry careers through FFA Field Days. In addition, fire prevention and proper forest management practices were discussed in public meetings, and with private land management. These programs reached over 559 citizens in Lowndes county.

Some of the programs that the Lowndes Forestry Unit was involved with this year included:

1. Lowndes Hazard Mitigation Meetings
2. Smokey Bear/Fire Prevention at Open Bible
3. Arbor/Earth Day at City of Valdosta/Hahira
4. Langdale Forestry Field Day
5. Forestry Field Day/Pine Grove Elementary/Ware High School/Colquitt
6. Urban and Community Forestry
7. Smokey Bear/Fire Prevention at Brookfield Academy
8. Equip

9. Urban and Community Forestry/USDA Office