



**Commissioner Adam H. Putnam**

*Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Native Tree Planting Event at Caloosahatchee Forestry Center**

Lee County, Fla – The Florida Forest Service’s Friends of Florida State Forests program is hosting a native tree planting event in Fort Myers on Saturday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m. The event is free to the general public and will be held at the Florida Forest Service’s Caloosahatchee Forestry Center (10941 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL, 33905).

Techno Brain Group has donated funds to purchase native trees for the event and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County have volunteered to plant trees around the Forestry Center. The species of native trees to be planted include live oak, paradise tree, bald cypress, dahoon holly, florida red maple, mahogany and wild tamarind.

“Reaching out to the community is important as we share our message and mission while striving to make Florida’s state forests better for everyone,” said Doug Ott, Friends of Florida State Forests program coordinator.

Last year, Techno Brain Group donated funds to plant 15,000 longleaf pine trees at Goethe and Tate’s Hell State Forest. They will be participating in this year’s tree planting event in Fort Myers.

“[Techno Brain Foundation](#), in association with environmental organizations, has planned to plant 50,000 trees over three years,” said Techno Brain CEO, Manoj Shanker. “We have already planted 37,000 trees last year globally, thanks to organizations like the Florida Forest Service that share the same vision as we do.”

Through community partnerships and support, the Friends of Florida State Forests program helps expand outdoor recreation, education and reforestation on Florida’s 37 state forests. Contributions to the program can be made to a specific state forest for reforestation, forest restoration, recreation projects, exotic plant removal, equipment donations and other forest needs.

“The Florida Forest Service would like to thank Techno Brain and the Boys & Girls Club of Lee County for supporting this tree planting project. Community partnerships such as this one help us to further the mission of the Florida Forest Service,” said Heather Ferrand, Forestry Resource Administrator for Caloosahatchee Forestry Center.

To learn more or to get involved with the Friends of Florida State Forests non-profit program, please visit [FloridaStateForests.org](http://FloridaStateForests.org), or contact the program coordinator at

[Doug.Ott@FreshFromFlorida.com](mailto:Doug.Ott@FreshFromFlorida.com) or (850) 294-0381. Membership dues and contributions go directly toward conservation and improvement projects on Florida's state forests.

The Florida Forest Service manages more than one million acres of public forestland while protecting 26 million acres of homes, forestland and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfires. To learn more about Florida Forest Service programs, visit [www.FloridaForestService.com](http://www.FloridaForestService.com).

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