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Forester accepts post to serve Levy and Gilchrist counties

County Forester



Senior Forester Joe MacKenzie, the Levy County forester and Gilchrist County forester, stands next to his vehicle on Monday afternoon (Jan. 23) at a location in the Williston area of Levy County. MacKenzie was a key part of the Arbor Day celebration and learning experience at Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs Inc. on that day. Another leader in the program to teach people about proper methods for planting new trees was Barbara Edmonds of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Office of Levy County. Not only is Edmonds the Master Gardener coordinator, but she is an Extension arborist. The whole Arbor Day story and photos from the medical service dogs' complex are coming soon to HardisonInk.com.

Story and Photo

By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 23, 2017 at 4:37 p.m.

TRENTON -- Joseph "Joe" MacKenzie, 56, recently accepted the post formerly held by Florida Forester Barry Tye after Tye accepted a position with Wyoming State Forestry.

MacKenzie is a senior forester with the Florida Forest Service, a part of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. He is the county forester for Gilchrist and Levy counties. There was a time when each county had its own forester, however to cut costs, state leaders made it so that these two counties now share one forester.

MacKenzie has been a forester since 1987, working most recently for Georgia Pacific Corp. Since September of 2015, he has been working for the Florida Forestry Service. He enjoys helping people with what they need in regard to trees.

His job includes helping people learn about planting trees, conducting prescribed

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burns, and performing other actions to maintain a healthy, sustainable forest. Florida forests provide areas for timber production, but also for wildlife conservation, an environment for natural communities, a method to help soil and water conservation, as well as to provide for the aesthetics that can be enjoyed by people in the woods.

Long-term land stewardship is among the other vital jobs of a forester.

MacKenzie is ready, willing and able to help the people of Levy and Gilchrist counties with their forestry needs. He will visit private landowners to help them assess their forestry needs.

For people with larger tracts of trees, MacKenzie has lists of timber buyers, tree planters, consulting foresters and other contractors who can assist the landowners.

His office is located next to the fire tower on U.S. Highway 129 between Trenton and Bell. That office address is 7240 South U.S. Highway 129, Trenton, FL 32693. His office telephone number is 352-463-3138. His email address is

Joseph.MacKenzie@freshfromflorida.com.