

Alachua County Florida A Proclamation

Declaring “Turpentine Recognition Day” in Alachua County

- Whereas**, Florida in 1492 had 26 million acres of forests comprised mainly of longleaf and slash pines, producers of pitch, tar and oleoresin, the later often called gum;
- Whereas**, There was a great demand worldwide for the pitch and tar and later the gum that supplied turpentine and rosin, know as naval stores, for sealing wooden ships and their rigging;
- Whereas**, Turpentine or gum farming became a dominant forest use with Florida becoming the nation’s leader in naval stores production for two decades with its peak year in 1909;
- Whereas**, Alachua County formed the nucleus of a six county area with 8789 tree farms with their pine forests supporting over 100 turpentine stills in the area;
- Whereas**, The Fairbanks community in Alachua County was home to the turpentine still that provided jobs for many forest workers and still operators and contributed to a thriving industry that created capital for much economic development;
- Whereas**, The Mize family, owner/operators of the Fairbanks still, also provided land required for forestry education at the University of Florida to become accredited by the Society of American Foresters; and established a loan fund to support forestry students at the university.

Now, therefore, through the authority vested in me by the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim “March 8, 2005” as “Turpentine Recognition Day” in Alachua County, Florida,

Duly Proclaimed this 8th day of March, 2005.

**CHAIR, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Cynthia Moore Chestnut, Chair

ATTEST:

J.K. “Buddy” Irby, Clerk