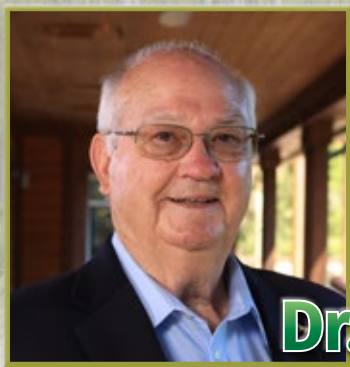




2021 Inductee

Dr. Wayne Smith

Dr. Wayne Smith's contributions to Florida agriculture encompass his lifelong devotion to education and research and his passion for forestry.

Smith, a native of Marianna, Florida, and graduate of the University of Florida, returned to his alma mater in 1964, advancing through the academic ranks to professor, director, and finally professor emeritus. In retirement he came back to serve as interim dean for IFAS Research and then the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. He proved to be a groundbreaking educator and researcher and a remarkable administrator.

Smith played a key part in the research, development, and implementation of the first Best Management Practices (BMPs) for silviculture. BMPs soon spread across Florida's agricultural industry and changed the face of agriculture. His research in fertilization led to practices that increased pine forest productivity by up to 300%. And his pioneering work in bio-energy made Florida a leader and earned accolades from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Smith's work has been recognized around the globe, including an audience with royalty. He has been a consultant for the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization, and he was called upon to testify before Congress, always being a staunch supporter of agriculture.

As director of the University of Florida's School of Forest Resources & Conservation, Smith restructured the teaching programs to tackle more "real world" scenarios to better prepare students for careers. He sought to create an atmosphere of excellence, not only teaching students to be better foresters, but better people. At the same time, he strengthened partnerships with industry to better meet its needs from research and for job-ready foresters.

He was a driving force in expanding the school's Austin Cary Forest Campus to better meet the school's program needs. In retirement, he led fundraising and took an active role in design of the new Stern Learning Center and support facilities, including the turpentine education site and sawmill restoration.

Smith's grant-writing efforts garnered more than \$16 million in funding, greatly enhancing both educational and research opportunities. He and his wife Mitzi, an attorney, also established the Wayne Smith and Mitzi Austin Forest Resources Law and Policy professorship and provided support for the Wayne Smith Student Leadership Fund.

Previous recognitions include the Florida Forestry Association's Distinguished Service Award, UF/IFAS Medal of Service, Society of American Foresters (SAF) fellowship, and Florida SAF Hall of Fame.