

A photograph of a forest with sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a warm, golden glow. The sun is positioned on the left side, casting long rays of light across the scene. The trees are tall and thin, with some green foliage visible in the foreground.

**CONNECTING GEORGIA  
TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**



**GEORGIA FORESTRY  
FOUNDATION**



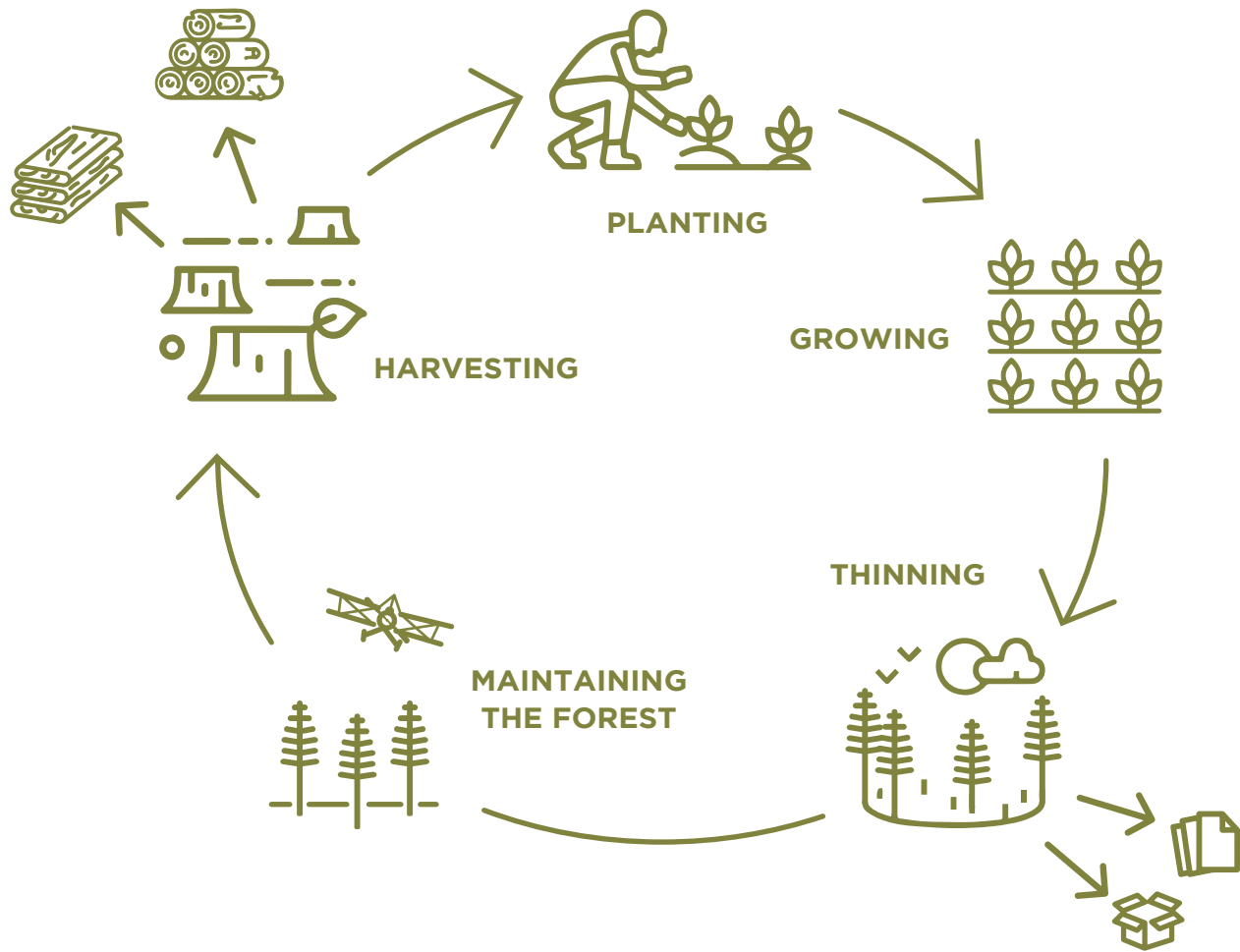
**If you take care of the  
forests, the forests will  
take care of you.**



Georgia's managed forests are an essential part of the economic and environmental ecosystems of our state. The Georgia Forestry Foundation (GFF) supports the long-term sustainability of 92 percent of the forest land covering two-thirds of our state's land mass. Each day, Georgians rely on these private forests for their livelihood; it is in the air they breathe, the products they use, and even has an important role in providing the water they drink.

**The Georgia Forestry Foundation seeks to connect every Georgian to the state's forest by sharing facts, experiences and fostering connections to the stewards of our forestland.**

Georgia's private forest landowners serve as the stewards of this great resource, leading a massive, continual reforestation effort and providing the greatest at-scale solution for carbon sequestration while improving water quality and preserving wildlife habitat. For each resident of our state, more than 21 trees are planted annually to help protect Georgia's water, air and land. These working forests are carefully managed lands that provide a renewable supply of wood for lumber, energy, paper and packaging, and more than 5,000 items that we use in our lives every day.



## SUSTAINABLY MANAGED, WORKING FORESTS


From seedling to harvest, these trees produce economic and environmental ecosystem benefits to our state and provide jobs throughout Georgia’s urban and rural communities.

The cycle of a working forest from planting and harvesting through use and replanting is a remarkable, sustainable - and fragile - endeavor. As Georgia becomes increasingly urban and suburban, there is greater and greater pressure to develop more land. And, once land becomes converted and our forests are gone, they’re gone forever. With that comes a loss of our innate connection to nature and, with each passing generation, we become more and more out of touch with these natural resources.



**THE MISSION** of the  
**Georgia Forestry Foundation**  
is to ensure the long-term  
**sustainability of Georgia's**  
**forests by reconnecting**  
**youth and adults to the**  
**land and by demonstrating**  
**working forests'**  
**environmental, educational**  
**and economic importance to**  
**our state.**

---



**Together we have  
an opportunity to be  
stewards of this precious  
resource. And this  
opportunity is NOW.**

Everyone in Georgia has a critical role in stewarding the state's managed forests. Through the Georgia Forestry Foundation's three programmatic pillars: **Education and Leadership**, **Environment**, and **Economy**, the Foundation is committed to seeing the trees through the forest.



**EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP:  
Providing a Connection to the Land**

The Georgia Forestry Foundation is leading the way on educating the people of Georgia on the critical role working forests play in our everyday survival, comfort and progress. Our programs connect people and forests, targeting urban and suburban audiences across Georgia. These programs establish a critical bridge between Georgia's urban and rural communities.



**ENVIRONMENT:  
Building Environmental Sustainability**

Every day, working forests provide invaluable ecosystem services like clean air, clean water and wildlife habitat. If we don't actively keep forests as forests, though, we risk losing those innumerable benefits. Through leading key conversations, developing strategic partnerships, and funding innovative research, the Georgia Forestry Foundation's environmental programs work to ensure that our forests continue to grow and be healthy and resilient, while supporting the survival, comfort and progress of every Georgian for generations to come.



**ECONOMY:  
Ensuring Prosperity**

Innovation is driving the forestry industry to greater production, efficiency and sustainability, and the support of Georgia Forestry Foundation ensures that we continue to enjoy the economic and environmental benefits working forests provide to 10 million Georgians every day.



**200,000,000+**

Georgia annually plants more than 200,000,000 trees per year

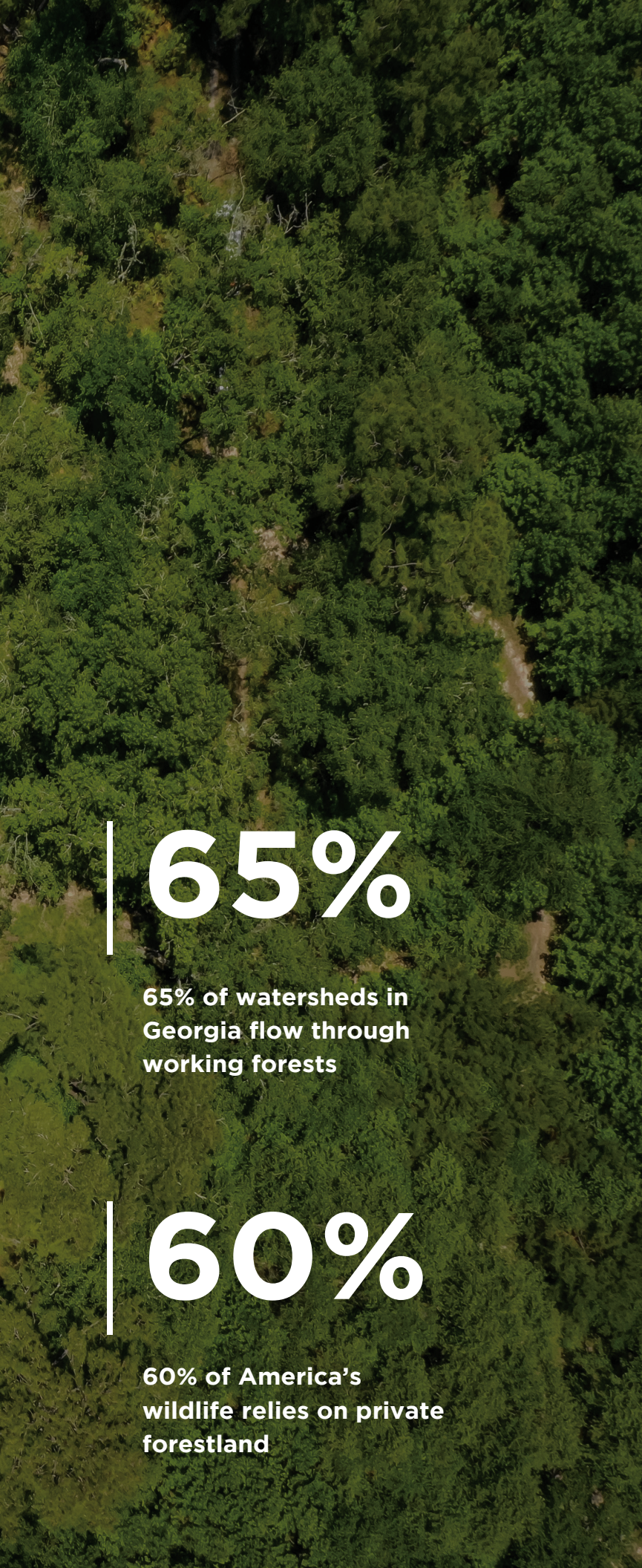
**22%**

Georgia's forests sequester  
22% of the state's emissions  
from fossil fuels

**148,000**

More than 148,000 jobs in Georgia  
are provided by the forestry industry





65%

65% of watersheds in Georgia flow through working forests

60%

60% of America's wildlife relies on private forestland

## THE SEEDS OF OUR GROWTH

1989  
Founded

2003  
Center for Forestry Education building dedicated

2005  
Georgia Teacher Conservation Workshop started

2007  
20-year anniversary of Georgia Project Learning Tree

2011  
Ecosystem services study

2016  
Strategic Review completed  
Center for Forest Leadership founded  
Center for Forest Competitiveness founded  
Center for Forest Education founded

2017  
Partnerships with Georgia Public Broadcasting, Trees Atlanta and Chattahoochee Nature Center started

2020  
Focus on developing forest solutions for the challenges of atmospheric carbon and protecting drinking water sources



# FORESTRY STATE IN THE NATION

Thanks to healthy markets for forestry – including paper, lumber and over 5,000 life-sustaining products – and a commitment from private landowners to sustainably manage and harvest their land, Georgia is consistently ranked as the number one forestry state in the nation for:

- Commercially available timberland
- Annual timber harvest volume, all while overall tree volume increases at a rate of almost 50 percent annually
- Exporting of pulp, paper and paperboard wood fuel, and wood pellet products, providing a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels for the world's energy needs

## OUR LEADERSHIP

The Georgia Forestry Foundation Board of Trustees bring diverse experiences and expertise from across Georgia's forestry community to guide the Foundation to successfully support our mission and enable us to effectively scale our programs and impact.

- **Chair – Tiffanie Starr,** Timberland Investment Resources
- **Vice Chair – John Mulcahy,** Georgia-Pacific
- **Treasurer – Troy Harris,** Jamestown
- **Ken Stewart - Immediate Past Chair** Georgia Tech (Retired)
- **Jay Bailey,** Russell Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- **Dr. Johnny Bembry,** Landowner
- **Lindsay Boring,** PhD J.W. Jones Ecological Center (Retired)
- **Lee Dickey,** Dickey Farms
- **Robert Fairey,** Cox Enterprises
- **Jim Gillis,** Dynamic Capital Group Soperton Naval Stores
- **Jon Harris,** AgSouth Farm Credit
- **Jim Langdale,** The Langdale Company
- **Mac Peden,** Landowner
- **Cliff Pyron,** Georgia Ports Authority
- **Lee Rhodes,** Rhodes Land & Timber
- **Jim Stokes,** Alston & Bird (Retired Partner)
- **Jennifer Winn,** Georgia Power



**Together, we can  
steward Georgia's  
forests.**

**If we don't, who will?**

**We need your support.**

With the dawning recognition of the critical importance of trees to the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of Georgia, managed forests are suddenly in focus. We are on the cusp of a shared vision of increased environmental and economic awareness in our state, one in which the Georgia Forestry Foundation is uniquely positioned to succeed in reconnecting 10 million Georgians with 22 million acres of working forests. Your support allows us to continue to grow the innovative programs and partnerships that have been established and whose roots have been firmly planted. By supporting and educating leaders, by reconnecting today's youth to forests, and by utilizing state-of-the-art technology to bring trees into the classroom, together we can cultivate a promise of stewardship for generations to come.



**GEORGIA FORESTRY**  
FOUNDATION

Georgia Forestry Foundation  
551 N Frontage Rd, Forsyth, GA 31029  
tel: (478) 992-8110  
email: [info@gffgrow.org](mailto:info@gffgrow.org)

**GFFGROW.ORG**