



Illustris Palustris Award 2018



The North Carolina Longleaf Coalition presented the 2018 Illustris Palustris Award to John Ann Shearer, a wildlife biologist with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

John Ann has been an advocate for longleaf pine for over 20 years. In her role as coordinator of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, she promotes wildlife conservation by offering technical guidance and cost share for private landowners to improve and restore wildlife habitat including multiple longleaf projects. In just the last three years her projects have restored 1447 acres of longleaf pine habitat. In addition she has secured funds to restore 1000 more longleaf acres.

John Ann recognizes the value of partnerships and collaboration to restore longleaf. She is an active member of the NC Longleaf Coalition, the NC Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and a regular participant in the Onslow Bight Conservation Forum, the Cape Fear Arch Conservation Partnership and the NC Prescribed Fire Council.

John Ann helped create the Longleaf Honor Roll a recognition program that praises and thanks landowners who manage the longleaf ecosystem for all its resource values. She is a supporter of North Carolina's emerging Prescribed Burn Associations.

John Ann's passion and leadership have improved partnerships within the natural resource professional community and motivated many private landowners to carry out longleaf management. Because of her efforts, thousands of acres of longleaf are in better condition, and the people who manage that longleaf are better positioned to appreciate and perpetuate the resource. She is an inspiration to the longleaf community and well deserving of the 2018 Illustris Palustris Award.



John Ann Shearer proudly displays the Illustris Palustris pine cone award.



John Ann Shearer (*middle*) receives the 2018 Illustris Palustris Award from NC Longleaf Coalition representatives Sarah Crate (NCFs) and Susan Miller (USFWS), *left to right*.

