

## **Dennis Hardin, Florida Division of Forestry**

Some of you may not know Dennis Hardin. However, if you are interested in, or at all concerned about, RCW recovery in Florida you should be thankful for his significant contribution to conservation of the species in Florida. Dennis is the Forest Ecologist for the Florida Division of Forestry. In the mid-1990's he took on the challenge of convincing his agency that they needed to be more aggressive about management and conservation of red-cockaded woodpeckers. The results have been significant. We now have comprehensive woodpecker management plans for the 4 Division of Forestry properties harboring red-cockaded woodpeckers and all 4 populations are increasing. His efforts also indirectly inspired the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to increase their conservation and management efforts on their lands containing red-cockaded woodpeckers and to draft woodpecker management plans. For your vision, commitment and dedication to improving red-cockaded woodpecker conservation efforts on state lands in Florida, we present you this award. Thank you Dennis.