

## TOWER OPERATIONS

The air patrol pattern that is flown by GFC aircraft is greatly reduced due to the restricted area in and around Moody Air Force Base, so the Lowndes unit keeps its fire tower staffed daily by 1000, weather permitting. Tower watch allows unit personnel to monitor permits by discerning the location of smoke plumes, as well as discovering any wildfires. This past fiscal year, several landowners were notified by tower watch of visible smoke in their location on days that no permit was obtained; this allowed for prevention measures to be taken, either by the landowner or GFC.

## MAINTENANCE

The GFC realizes that in order for equipment to be ready to respond to an emergency, it must be constantly maintained. Most all of the repairs that are needed can be handled at our county units, which is due to the dedication and professional knowledge of the unit personnel. On staff in Lowndes, and surrounding area units, we have personnel who are accomplished welders, mechanics, plumbers, carpenters and electricians who are constantly performing tasks that save the State of Georgia and the local taxpayer thousands of dollars each year.

## LOWNDES COUNTY FIRE RESCUE / VALDOSTA FIRE DEPARTMENT

The GFC assists Lowndes County Fire Rescue (LCFR) in the acquisition, inspection and upkeep of all "Co-Op" lease equipment. There has always been excellent cooperation between the GFC and LCFR. With this cooperation, the GFC and local county fire departments provide our citizens with the wildland and structural protection needed to ensure public safety.

Out of the 19 wildfires this past fiscal year in Lowndes, 12 were suppressed by the joint efforts of LCFR, Valdosta Fire Department and GFC.

## REFORESTATION

The GFC has two seed production orchards, Flint River in Byromville and Arrowhead in Cochran, GA. GFC is a major supplier for the National Wild Turkey Federation, and a grower for USFS experimental seedlings.