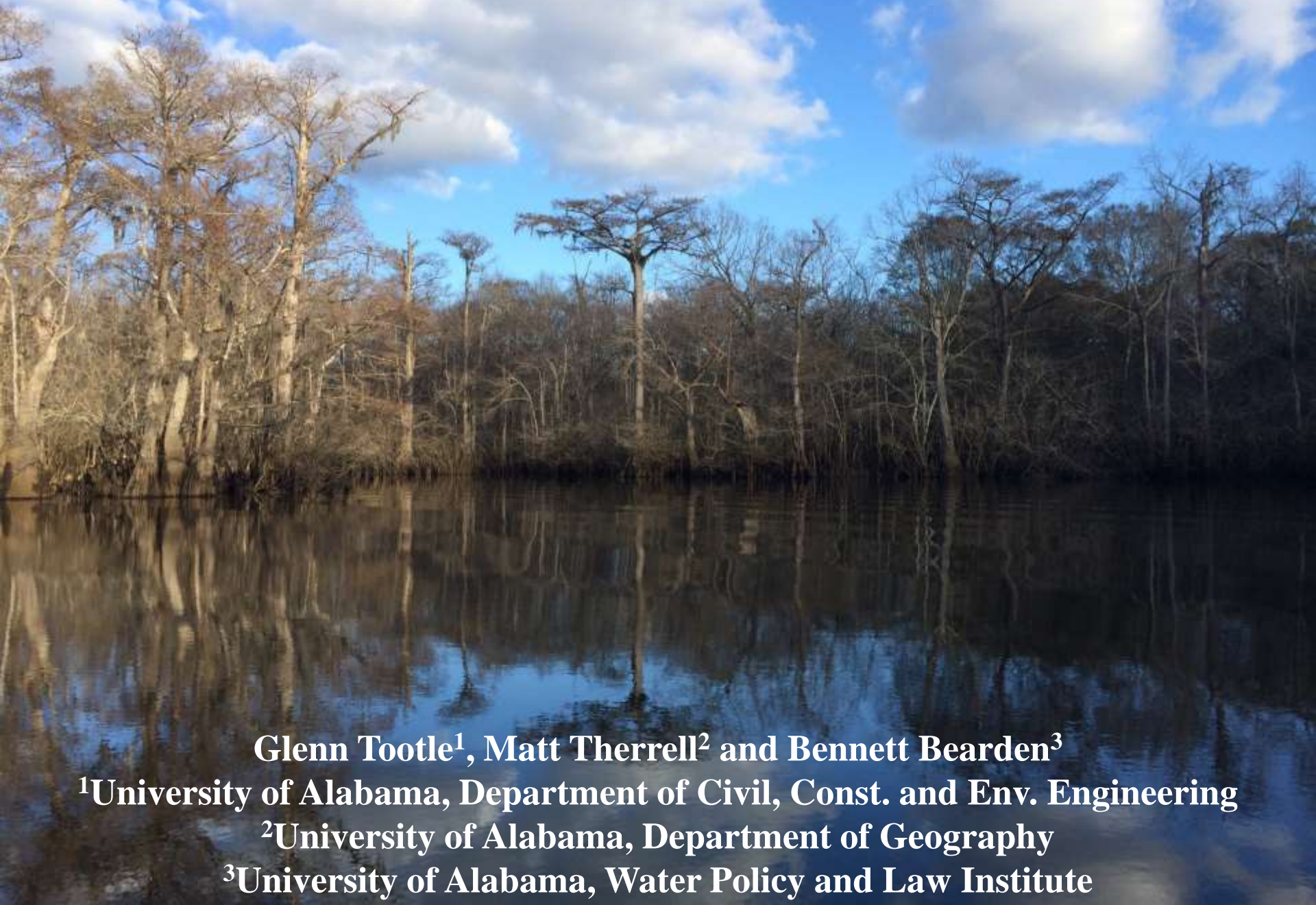


# Choctawhatchee River Tree Ring Study



**Glenn Tootle<sup>1</sup>, Matt Therrell<sup>2</sup> and Bennett Bearden<sup>3</sup>**

**<sup>1</sup>University of Alabama, Department of Civil, Const. and Env. Engineering**

**<sup>2</sup>University of Alabama, Department of Geography**

**<sup>3</sup>University of Alabama, Water Policy and Law Institute**

# Outline



- Acknowledgments
  - Pat O’Neil and Nick Tew
- 2014 Orange Beach Refresher
- Development of Webpage
  - <http://choctawhatcheerivertreeringstudy.weebly.com/>
- Results
- Future Work
- Questions





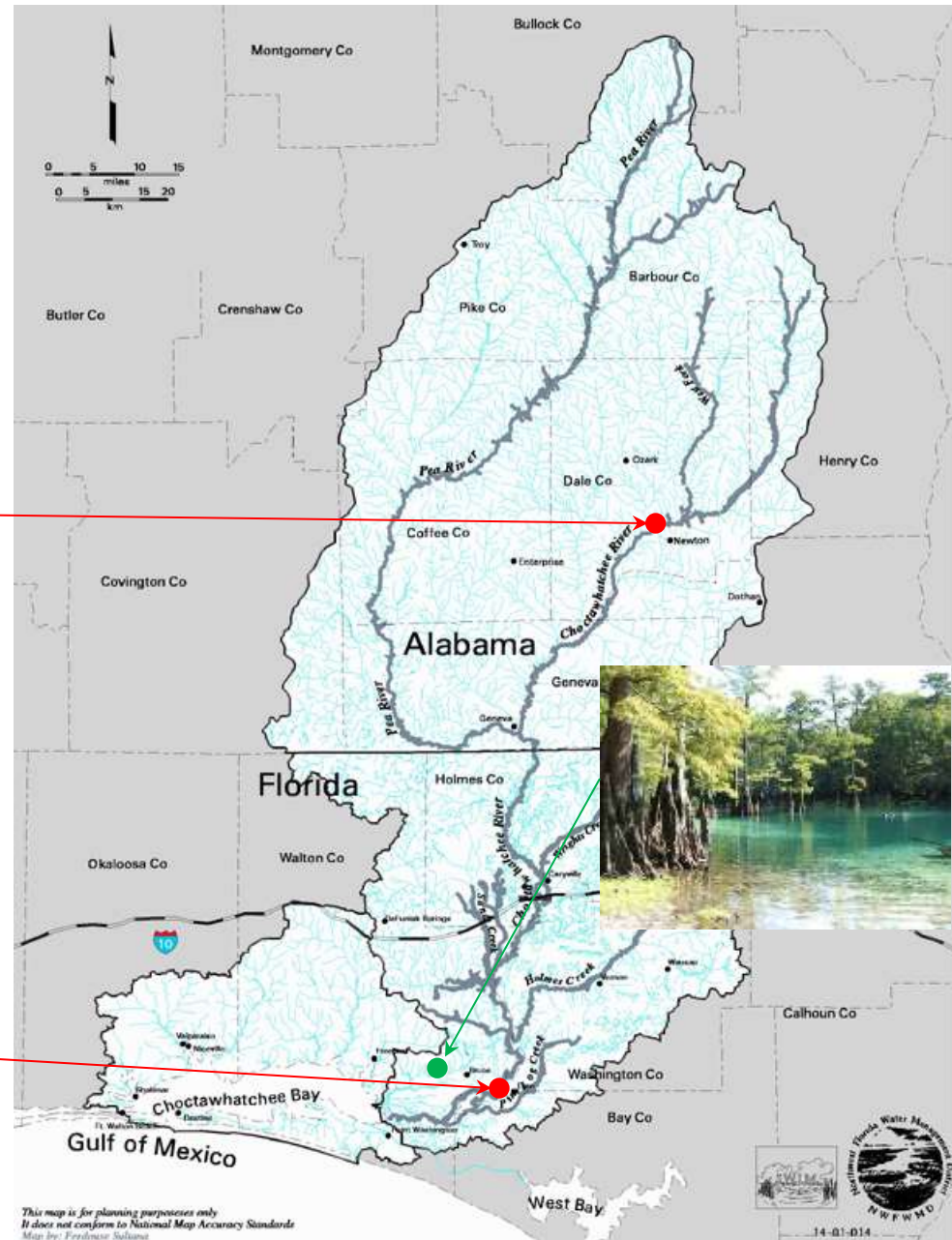
# Choctawhatchee River Water-Year Droughts

Newton AL

Water-Year (1936 to 2013)			
Rank	1-year	5-year (end year)	10-year (end year)
1	<b>2012</b>	1989	<b>2008</b>
2	<b>2000</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2009</b>
3	<b>2011</b>	<b>2003</b>	1989
4	<b>2002</b>	1988	1959
5	1955	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
6	<b>2007</b>	1959	<b>2013</b>
7	1981	<b>2002</b>	<b>2012</b>
8	1951	1955	<b>2011</b>
9	1956	1956	1960
10	<b>2006</b>	<b>2006</b>	1988

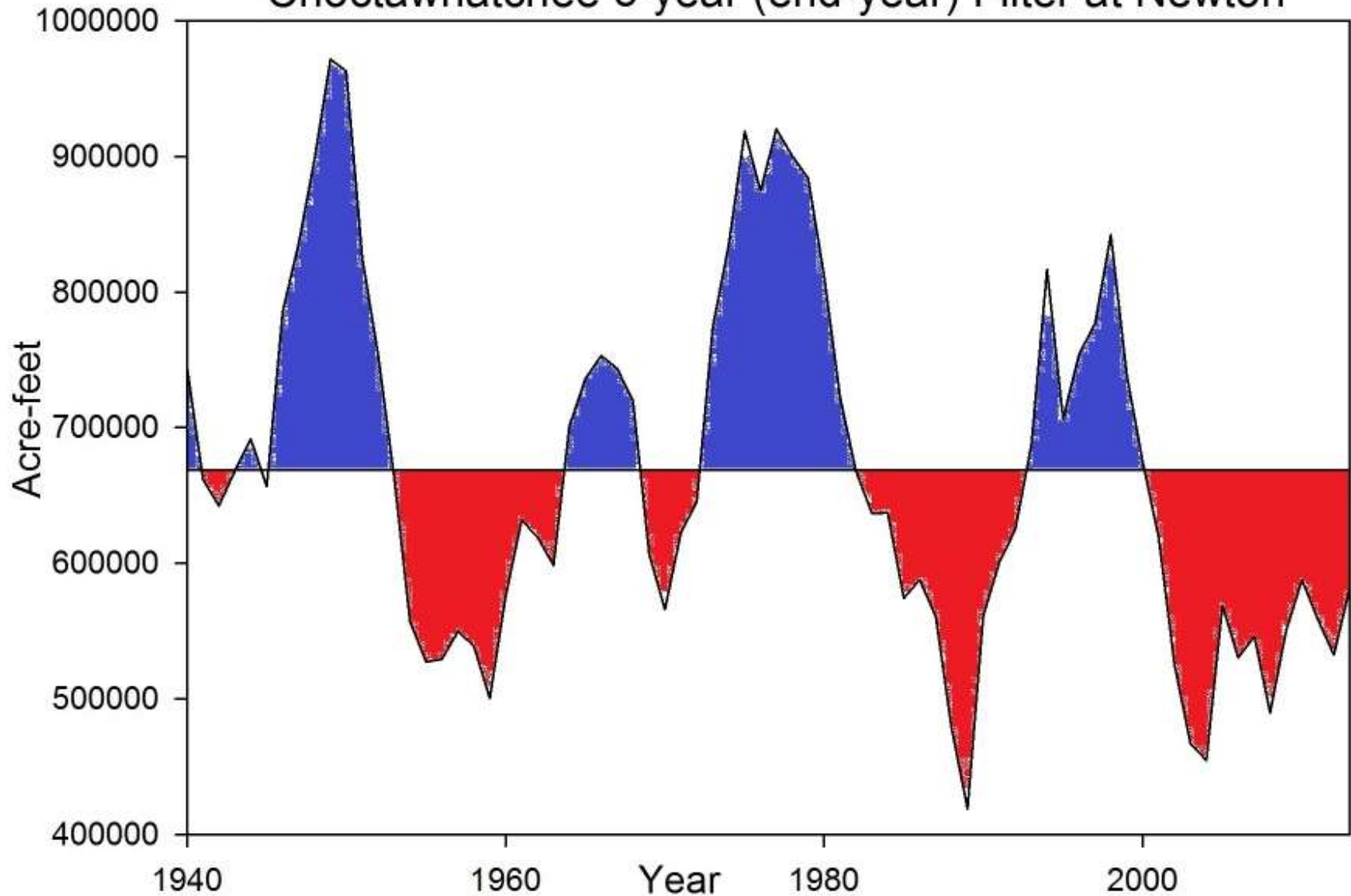
Bruce FL

Water-Year (1931 to 2013 - missing 1983 & 1984)			
Rank	1-year	5-year (end year)	10-year (end year)
1	<b>2011</b>	1956	<b>2008</b>
2	<b>2000</b>	1955	1959
3	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2009</b>
4	<b>2012</b>	1957	1960
5	<b>2007</b>	1959	<b>2007</b>
6	1956	<b>2008</b>	<b>2013</b>
7	1955	1958	<b>2011</b>
8	<b>2006</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2012</b>
9	1951	1954	1958
10	1981	1989	1961



# Choctawhatchee River Water-Year Streamflow

Choctawhatchee 5-year (end-year) Filter at Newton





# NOAA

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## 2. **Stahle - Choctawhatchee River - TADI - FL001, PAGES North America 2K Version**

**Stahle, D.W.; Cleaveland, M.K.** *Earliest Year: 750 cal yr BP (1200 AD) \* Most Recent Year: -37 cal yr BP (1987 AD) \* Location Bounds - North: 30.45 \* South: 30.45 \* East: -85.92 \* West: -85.92 \**

Tree ring data from the International Tree Ring Data Bank and World Data Center for Paleoclimatology archives. Most data sets include raw tree-ring measurements (most are annual ring width, with some collections of earlywood or latewood width or wood density), plus chronologies (standardized growth indices for a site compiled from multiple tree-ring samples). Reconstructions of climate variables are included with some of these data sets. Each data type is stored in a separate data file; the data type is coded into the file name. For details please see: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/treeinfo.html>...

## 3. **Stahle - Choctawhatchee River - TADI - ITRDB FL001**

**Stahle, D.W.; Cleaveland, M.K.** *Earliest Year: 1051 cal yr BP (899 AD) \* Most Recent Year: -42 cal yr BP (1992 AD) \* Location Bounds - North: 30.45 \* South: 30.45 \* East: -85.92 \* West: -85.92 \**

Tree ring data from the International Tree Ring Data Bank and World Data Center for Paleoclimatology archives. Data include raw tree-ring measurements (most are annual ring width, with some collections of earlywood or latewood width or wood density), plus chronologies (standardized growth indices for a site compiled from multiple tree-ring samples). Each data type is stored in a separate data file; the data type is coded into the file name. For details please see: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/treeinfo.html>...

Datasets



Borehole

Climate Forcing

Climate Reconstruction

Coral and Sclerosponge

NCDC's Paleoclimatology Branch and the World Data Center for Paleoclimatology. The ITRDB includes raw tree-ring width, wood density, isotope measurements, and site growth index chronologies. Over 3,000 sites on six continents are included. Reconstructed climate parameters are also available for some areas.

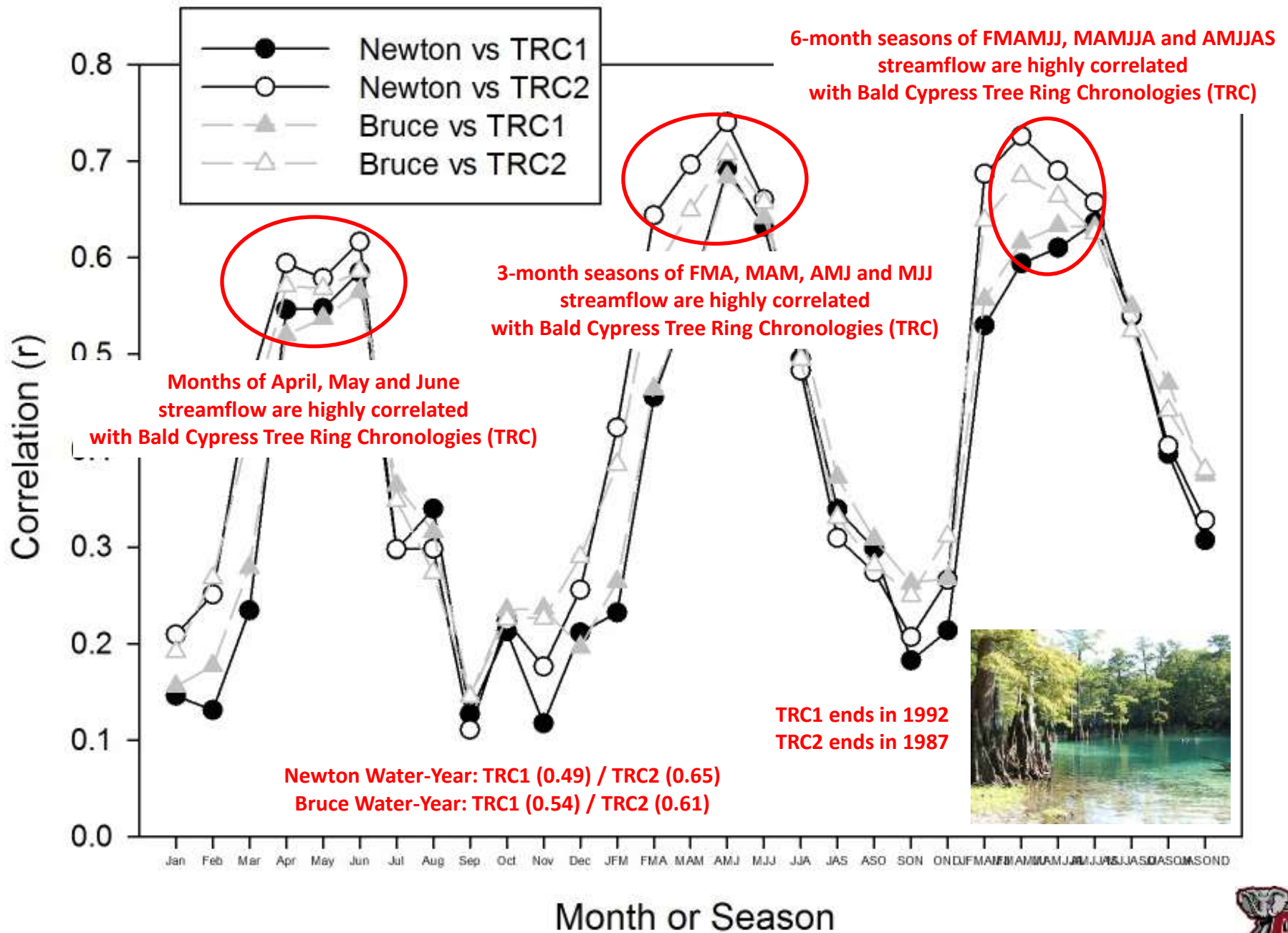
## Obtaining Data at the World Data Center

Search Datasets





# Choctawhatchee River Reconstruction Potential



CHOCTAWHATCHEE RIVER

## ABOUT THE STUDY

Dr. Matt Therrell (UA Department of Geography) and Dr. Glenn Tootle (UA Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering) and a team of two graduate (Ashton Greer and Matt Meko) and seven undergraduate (Siera Jann, Caitlin Koranda, Natalie Leder, Aubrey Loria, Mallory Mitchell, Thomas Moat, Sam Spector) researchers traveled from The University of Alabama to the Choctawhatchee River in the Florida panhandle to collect tree ring data from Bald Cypress trees in order to conduct research on reconstructing streamflow. The study is funded by the Geological Survey of Alabama and the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium.

*Special thanks to Mr. Bruner for access to the tree sampling sites and to the Geological Survey of Alabama and the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium for their support.*



<http://choctawhatcheerivertreeringstudy.weebly.com/>



# LOCATION

The work site was on the Choctawhatchee River by Cowford Island in Northwest Florida.





































Tree ring records have been cross-dated to provide to date historic events

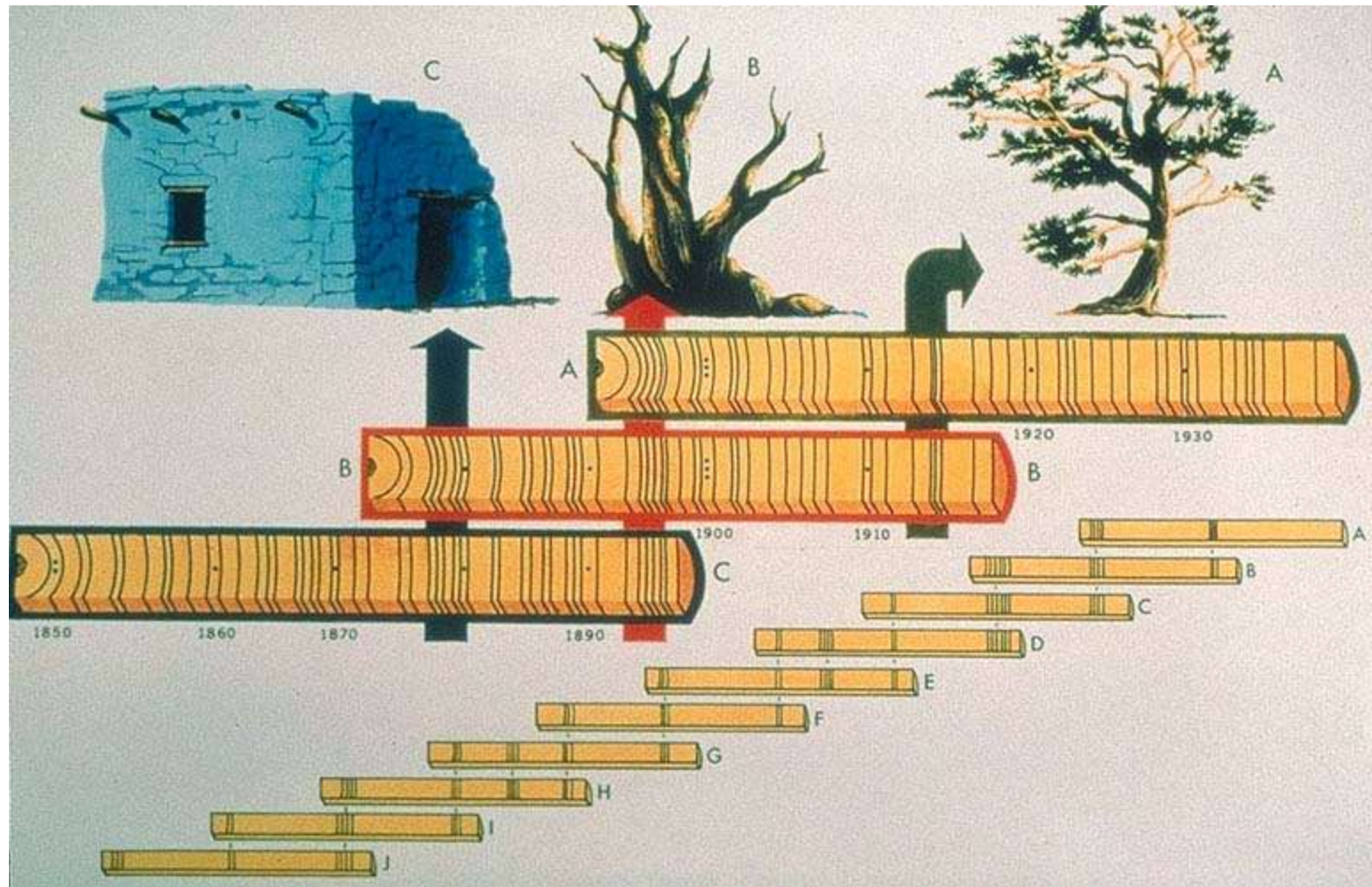
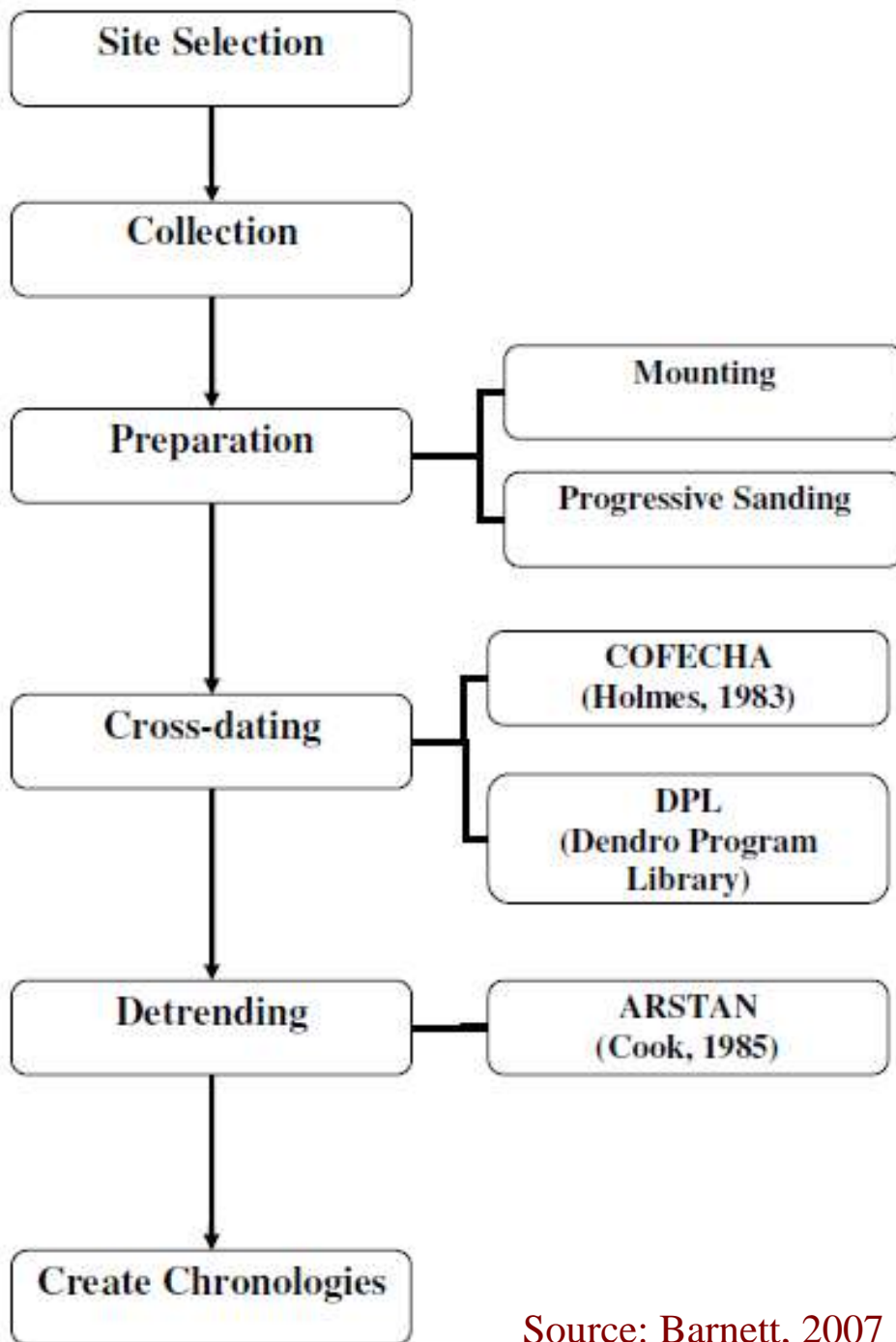


Image courtesy of LTRR (U. AZ)







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Home > Data Access > Paleoclimatology > Datasets > Tree Ring

**Tree Ring**

The International Tree-Ring Data Bank (ITRDB) is the world's largest archive of tree ring data, managed by NCDC's Paleoclimatology Branch and the World Data Center for Paleoclimatology. The ITRDB includes raw ring width, wood density, isotope measurements, and site growth index chronologies. Over 3,000 sites on six continents are included. Reconstructed climate parameters are also available for some areas.

**Obtaining Data at the World Data Center**

Search Datasets

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Your search returned 4 match(es).

Back to Data Search (Note: Please avoid using the browser "Refresh" and "Back" buttons as they may cause unexpected results.)

Display 15 Go

**Search Results**

1. Grey - Anderson Ridge East - PFI - ITRDB WY042  
Grey, S.T.; Pederson, G.T.; Watson, T.; Barnett, A. Earliest Year: 750 cal yr BP (1200 AD) \* Most Recent Year: -66 cal yr BP (2006 AD) \* Location: Bounds - North: 42.45° South: 42.45° East: -103.067° West: -103.067°  
In western North America snowpack has declined in recent decades, and further losses are projected through the 21st century. Here we evaluate the uniqueness of recent declines using snowpack reconstructions from 66 tree-ring chronologies in key runoff generating areas of the Colorado, Columbia and Missouri River drainages. Over the past millennium, late-20th century snowpack reductions are almost unprecedented in magnitude across the northern Rocky Mountains, and in their north-south synchrony across the cordillera. Both the snowpack declines and their synchrony result from unparallelled springtime warming due to positive reinforcement of the anthropogenic warming by decadal variability. The increasing role of warming in large-scale snowpack variability and trends foreshadows fundamental impacts on streamflow and water supplies across the western USA.

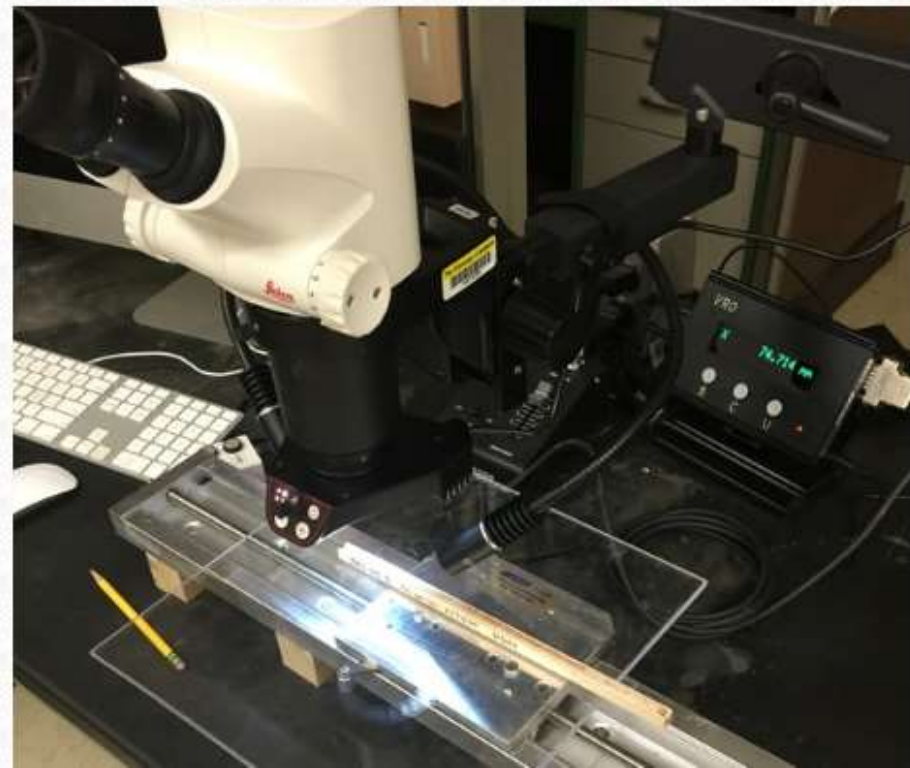
2. Grey - Anderson Ridge East - PFI - WY042, PAGE 5 North America 2K Version  
Grey, S.T.; Pederson, G.T.; Watson, T.; Barnett, A. Earliest Year: 750 cal yr BP (1200 AD) \* Most Recent Year: -37 cal yr BP (1987 AD) \* Location: Bounds - North: 42.45° South: 42.45° East: -103.067° West: -103.067°  
In western North America snowpack has declined in recent decades, and further losses are projected through the 21st century. Here we evaluate the uniqueness of recent declines using snowpack reconstructions from 66 tree-ring chronologies in key runoff generating areas of the Colorado, Columbia and

Source: Barnett, 2007



## DR. MATT THERRELL'S TREE RING LABORATORY:

Tree ring samples (cores) from live Bald Cypress trees are mounted, sanded and the ring widths are measured in the lab. Dead wood samples are measured and cross-dated.





# CHOCTAWHATCHEE RIVER TREE RING STUDY

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# CHOCTAWHATCHEE RIVER TREE RING STUDY

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Many samples from a site are detrended and combined to create a single time series (chronology)

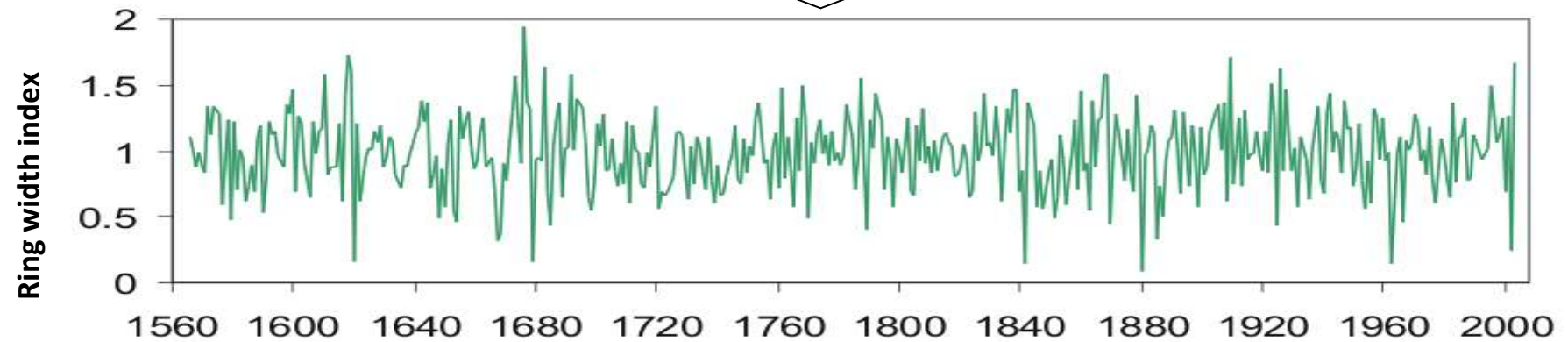
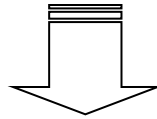
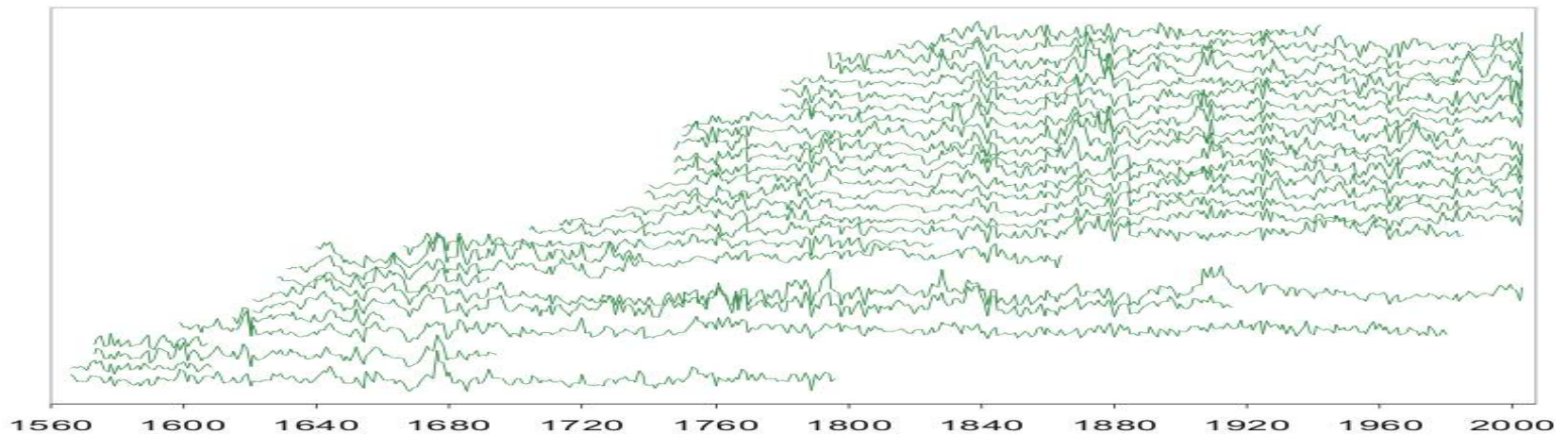
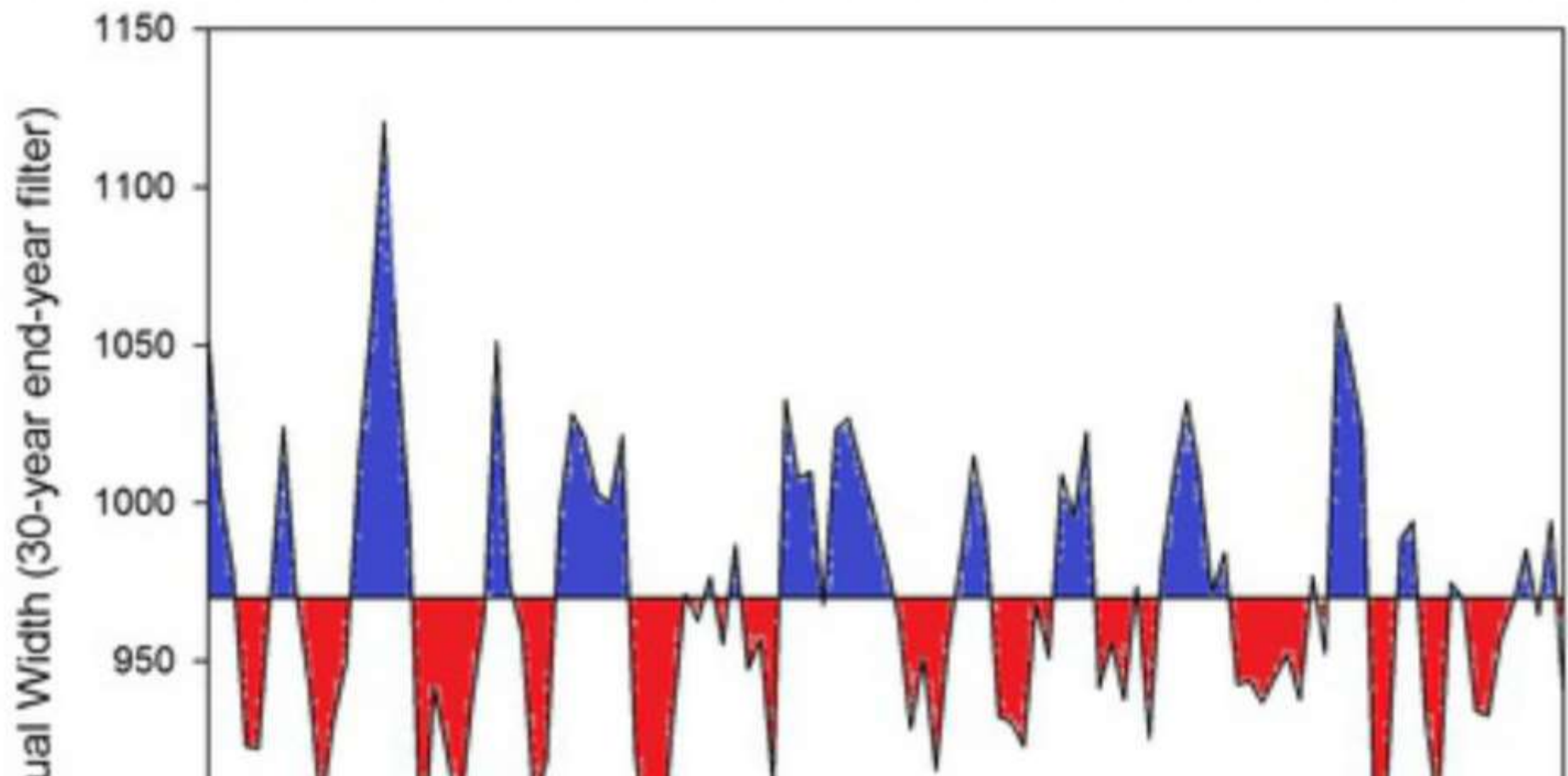


Image courtesy of J. Lukas (U. CO)

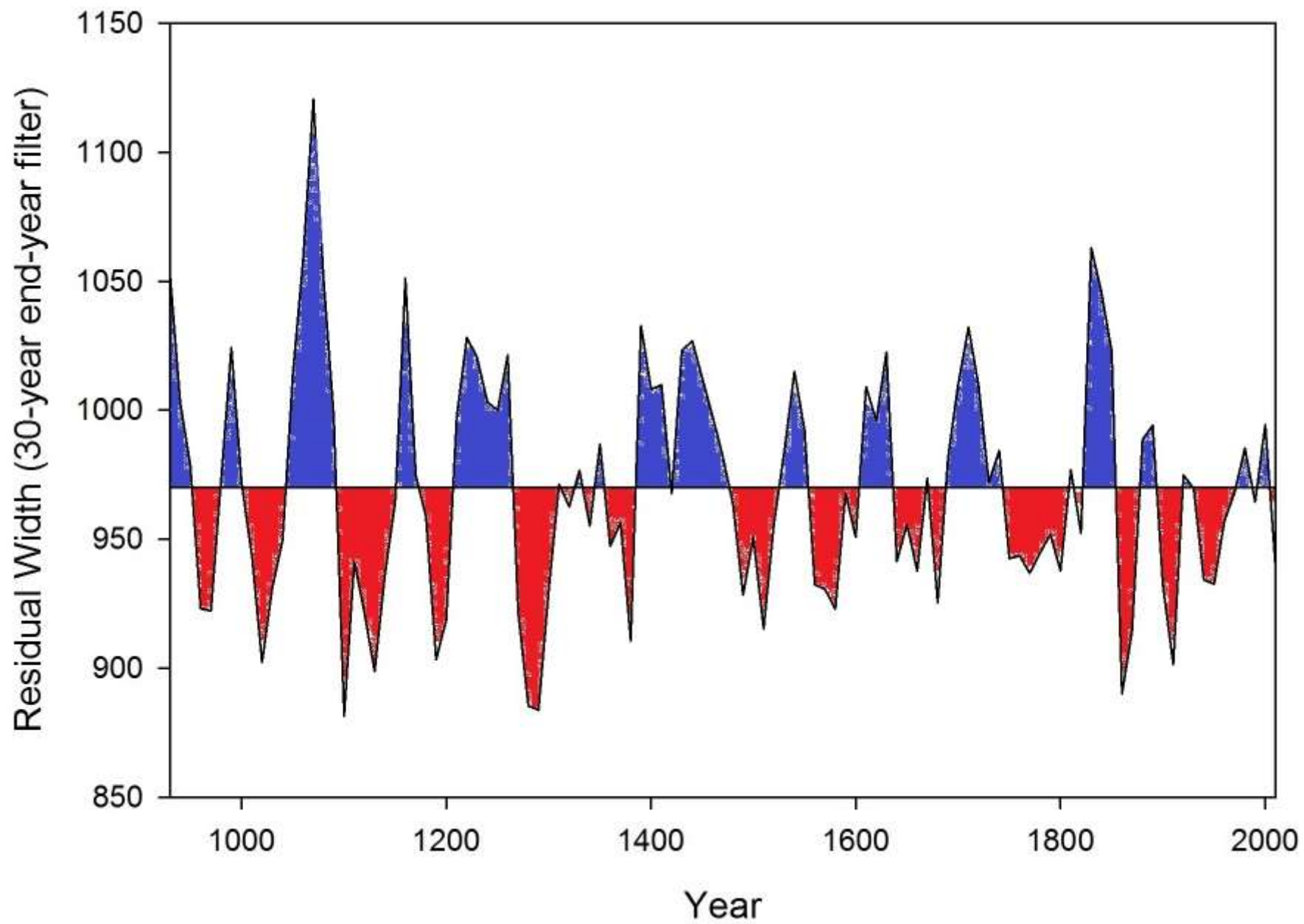




## TREE RING CHRONOLOGIES









Year

Ring Width (Residual and Standard)



choct\_ew\_res.crn  
[Download File](#)



choct\_ew\_std.crn  
[Download File](#)

Early Wood (Residual and Standard)



choct\_ew\_res.crn  
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choct\_ew\_std.crn  
[Download File](#)

Late Wood (Residual and Standard)



choct\_lw\_res.crn  
[Download File](#)



choct\_lw\_std.crn  
[Download File](#)



CHKres	8999990	09990	09990	09990	09990	09990	09990	09990	09990	09990	0
CHKres	900 994	6 657	6 696	6 974	62308	61114	6 968	61344	61394	61035	6
CHKres	910 421	6 787	61072	61180	6 896	6 871	61397	6 483	61339	61329	6
CHKres	920 942	61153	61167	6 771	61276	61130	6 672	61259	61032	6 977	6
CHKres	930 890	6 701	61283	61146	61390	61313	6 762	61201	6 917	6 767	6
CHKres	940 902	6 965	6 880	61024	61127	6 951	61011	61027	6 523	6 859	6
CHKres	9501227	6 754	6 618	61092	6 857	61023	6 724	6 971	6 889	6 935	6
CHKres	960 863	8 966	81154	81219	81099	81003	8 862	8 838	81038	8 784	8
CHKres	9701169	82059	81200	8 829	8 522	8 936	8 675	81310	8 725	81005	8
CHKres	9801207	81206	8 628	8 562	81076	8 912	81114	8 997	8 895	8 914	8
CHKres	990 786	8 968	8 876	8 883	8 464	81003	8 769	8 757	8 862	8 915	8
CHKres	10001005	81053	81278	81258	8 861	11 626	111357	11 944	11 754	11 800	11
CHKres	1010 653	11 613	111020	111013	11 703	11 992	11 853	11 850	11 901	11 732	11
CHKres	1020 919	11 977	11 827	11 780	111117	111082	11 718	111061	111062	11 897	11
CHKres	1030 994	111081	11 925	111088	11 839	12 934	12 822	121407	121439	12 600	12
CHKres	10401084	121271	121190	13 692	13 515	131126	131860	131150	13 880	131015	14
CHKres	1050 725	141266	151394	15 828	15 749	15 960	151006	151482	151232	151334	15
CHKres	1060 685	15 990	151084	151219	151820	151820	151085	151162	151046	151235	15
CHKres	1070 799	15 752	15 494	151023	15 453	15 842	15 834	151077	15 476	151319	15
CHKres	10801147	151019	15 897	15 736	151524	15 906	15 631	15 918	15 702	15 872	16
CHKres	1090 984	161123	161063	16 973	16 911	16 932	16 651	16 367	16 955	16 860	16
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CHKres	1310 948	35 767	35 677	351309	351537	34 930	34 859	341252	341196	34 981	34
CHKres	1320 176	321283	321125	321153	32 688	32 884	32 676	32 793	32 926	32 952	32
CHKres	13301181	34 873	311170	31 683	311229	32 862	33 838	331066	34 930	341090	35
CHKres	1340 821	361180	361574	361299	361156	36 979	36 800	36 840	36 766	36 784	36
CHKres	13501028	36 771	36 771	36 959	361006	36 954	36 698	361187	37 724	37 675	37
CHKres	1360 687	371207	37 739	371067	371212	37 927	37 869	37 909	371121	37 648	37
CHKres	1370 965	37 989	38 550	39 749	39 882	39 953	391149	40 986	401111	401024	40
CHKres	1380 966	40 901	401164	40 965	401134	401505	391163	391499	391522	41 873	40
CHKres	13901278	401113	40 764	411151	41 894	41 760	411182	41 789	41 866	41 812	41



# Future Work

- Streamflow Reconstruction of Choctawhatchee
  - What season or seasons?
  - Total width, Early and Late Wood Correlation?
- Need more Tree Ring Chronologies (TRCs)
  - Southeast is very limited in number of TRCs
  - TRCs were cored in the 1980's and 1990's
  - Geneva and Mobile Bay
  - Will supplement with regional TRCs from ITRDB
- Submit Update of Stahle's TRC to ITRDB
- Use in AL Water Policy (Instream Flows, Drought)
- Prepare Final Report (October 2015)





# Thanks and Questions?

Glenn Tootle ([gatootle@eng.ua.edu](mailto:gatootle@eng.ua.edu)) Matt Therrell ([therrell@ua.edu](mailto:therrell@ua.edu))

