

By Philip Juras, Artist

LONGLEAF ART SPOTLIGHT

LONGLEAF OF WORMSLOE

As an artist inspired by ecology and history, I can think of no subject more captivating than the fire adapted landscapes that were once common in the South. Longleaf/wiregrass environments are especially rich in aesthetics with their abundant light and atmosphere, fine textured grasses, profusion of herbaceous species, and generously spaced, characteristic trees. To experience, or in this case imagine, such an environment is to journey back in time to the vast fire dependent landscape inhabited and managed by Native Americans before the arrival of Europeans.

This historic view shows the longleaf dominated woodlands and open understory that once graced the high grounds of historic Wormsloe on the Isle of Hope near Savannah, Georgia. To capture the colors and atmosphere of the marsh view, I began the painting on location at the Wormsloe State Historic Site in what today is a lawn bordered by second growth maritime forest. The longleaf forest has long since been cut. I completed it later in the studio where I added the historical elements of the longleaf ecosystem.

Longleaf of Wormsloe is part of my exploration of the South as naturalist William Bartram might have found it in the 1700s—also the subject of my 2011 Telfair Museum exhibition and

book *The Southern Frontier*. I continue to explore the presettlement history of southern landscapes, particularly those dependent on fire, and look forward to presenting this subject in October at the 10th Biennial Longleaf Conference.



Longleaf of Wormsloe, Isle of Hope, Georgia, 2012.
Oil on canvas by Philip Juras

**Crop
Production
Services**



TIMBERLAND DIVISION

WE OFFER:

Herbicide Sales

Competitive Pricing
Major Brands as well as Proprietary Products

Turn-Key Silvicultural Programs

Prescriptions
Herbicide Applications, including Site Prep, Release and Herbaceous
Weed Control
Fertilization
Tree Planting



**For the CPS Representative Nearest You, Call:
870-367-8561**

140 Arkansas Street • Monticello, AR 71655