2015 was an epic year for all of us here at Swamp Head Brewery. We got to do what we love day in and day out and share it with Floridians who have brought our beer, and our mission, into their homes. We have been able to brew more beer than any previous year and we moved into our new brewery! We love having a beer at the end of the day knowing that when you do the same you are supporting the natural Florida environment that we all call home.

INHERENTLY FLORIDIAN: LOCALITY

SERVING LOCAL

Swamp Head got our start in Gainesville, FL in 2008, and that’s where we continue to sell the majority of our beer. We do this for a few reasons. One, we’re lucky enough to have a home that loves and supports its local brewery, so we don’t really have to go too far to get our beer to the people who love it. Two, the farther our beer goes, the larger its footprint is due to the impact of distribution. It is this reason that we have made a commitment to keep our beer in Florida, and do not plan on distributing out of state.

“We are trying to be the best company we can be, and that doesn’t stop at beer. We want to protect the parts of Florida that we love.”

-Luke Kemper, Owner / Operator

PICKING LOCAL PARTNERS

We understand that distributing beer has an environmental impact. Unfortunately there’s no way to get it to all of you without that. This is why, when selecting our distributors we chose them with sustainability and locality at the forefront of our decision. Both Brown Distributing and Cone Distributing are Florida based, and have warehouses close to their main distribution areas to keep travel distances low.

Brown Distributing Company also has eco-initiatives including an extensive recycling program responsible for recycling 20 tons of plastic and 30 tons of cardboard annually.
LOCAL LOVE ON TAP

One of the best things about our industry is the collaborative spirit amongst brewers. This is what keeps our industry sustainable as we work together to bring more and more good beer to the world.

It's because of having so many friends in the industry that our tasting room is not a place for us to keep all of the attention to ourselves. We try and host as many other local brews on tap throughout the year so we can spread the love and support the local economy. Florida is home to 185 craft breweries and growing, so Swamp Head has no shortage of Florida beer to celebrate in our taproom.

LOCAL INGREDIENTS

What goes into our beer is of utmost importance to us. We source the highest quality ingredients available to any brewer on the planet. Unfortunately, due to our location, the bulk of our ingredients are always going to come from places as far away as the Northwest region of the U.S.

However, we get creative and resourceful so we can feature as many local ingredients as possible throughout the year.

Native Florida ingredients used in 2015 include:

- Florida Honey harvested from Paynes Prairie
- Florida Oranges
- Florida Blackberries
- Locally Formed Yarrow Flowers
- Lemongrass
- Local Organic Blueberries
- Coriander
- Locally Roasted Coffee
- Key Limes
- Sweet Potatoes
FOREVER FLORIDA: ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT

FOREVER FLORIDA SERIES

Swamp Head releases a “Forever Florida” brew to keep Floridians informed with what’s new in the world of conservation, from critters to waterways. These beers inspire Floridians to appreciate and preserve the natural environment around us.

“Florida’s springs are more than just a place to float down the river and have a beer, and we must protect them.”

-Bob Knight, Director, Florida Springs Institute

ETERNAL – FLORIDA SPRINGS INSTITUTE

Florida has more artesian springs than anywhere else in the world, and Swamp Head thinks it’s of utmost importance to save them. They are in danger.

In 2015, Swamp Head worked together with the Florida Springs Institute on a “Forever Florida” beer that we named “Eternal.” We set aside a portion of the Eternal Blonde Ale’s sales to help fund The Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute located in Gainesville, FL. In addition to raising funds, this beer helps to raise awareness of where our water comes from, and reminds us to cherish every drop. After all, water not only gives us beautiful springs to enjoy, rivers to float down and of course, beer... it gives us life.

TREE FEST

We have always been entranced with nature and how all parts of an ecosystem work together. Over the years, Florida’s longleaf pines and other species of native Florida plants have all but vanished. Not cool. This year, we were able to begin doing something about this in a huge way with our friends from Solar Impact of Gainesville.

We hosted the first annual Tree Fest the week of Earth Day in 2015 to raise funds to plant longleaf pines on Alachua Conservation Trust. The goal was to raise funds to plant 5,000 trees, but the event raised enough for 20,543. Next year, we are committed to increase this number drastically. Come out to Tree Fest 2016 to help us plant trees!
Our Journey to Carbon Neutrality

In 2015 we started taking a look into our carbon footprint and how we are impacting the environment. We are currently diving into ways we can work on reducing and offsetting the carbon we produce at the brewery.

Swamp Head opted to have a comprehensive carbon footprint calculated through We Are Neutral with plans to move closer to offsetting the brewery’s operations in 2016. Once offset, the brewery will become one of the first carbon neutral breweries in the state of Florida.

Every Friday before each home Gator football game in 2015, Swamp Head invited the Gator Nation to the tasting room. This has always been, and will always be, a carbon neutral event through our partnering organization We Are Neutral. The carbon footprint of the tap room is calculated and offset in Gainesville, FL through tree plantings and home energy upgrades for low-income residents.

OFFSETS THROUGH SOLAR, TREES AND ENERGY UPGRADES

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2015: Our Journey Begins

Total carbon Produced: ~535 Metric Tons
Solar Offsets: ~19 metric Tons
Tree Planting offsets: ~81 Metric Tons
Purchased Offsets: ~13 Metric Tons

WE OFFSET 21% OF OUR CARBON EMISSIONS

** Offsets from trees are not yet verified
This year, Swamp Head built our new brewery. We chose the property we built on due to the fact that it neighbors protected wetlands while still being in the heart of Gainesville.

For added protection to our neighboring critters we placed one acre to the west of the building adjacent to The Wetlands in permanent conservation. We also removed all species of invasive plants and trees to ensure our land will continue to thrive in the way Florida intended.

Even when our future brewery was just a dream, we knew building it sustainably was going to be something important to us.

Our 13,500 sq. ft. facility was built by Scherer Construction, a Gainesville based company dedicated to keeping their environmental impact minimal throughout the building process.

In partnership with Solar Impact, a Gainesville based company, we became the first brewery in Florida to use the power of the sun to brew beer. 57 solar panels were installed and provide more than 15,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. Visitors can see the energy at work on a screen in our tasting room. We plan to grow the use of solar power significantly in the coming years.

Working with Micanopy based Goodwin Company, we were able to use reclaimed cypress and longleaf pine logs to create our bar top, tables and trim. These logs harvested from Florida rivers, have been underwater for 125 years, which creates a rich patina due to the low oxygen environment. With only 3% of the original cypress and longleaf forest in existence today, this carpentry allows us to honor the trees native to the southeast, and display our hopes to help repopulate Florida with new, living longleaf pines over the years.
FLORIDA’S BREWERY: SUSTAINABLE BREWING PROCESS

TANKS

With this new facility, we were able to triple our brewing capacity using all American made tanks. The new four-vessel 30-barrel (930 gallons) system and all associated tanks were made in Portland, Oregon, and all future tanks needed for expansion will be procured in the USA.

BREWING PRACTICES

Swamp Head reuses as much as possible in our brewing process. Cool water used is recycled as hot water in the brewing process and yeast is harvested for future brewing. Leftover grains from the brewing process feed local livestock.

EMPLOYEES

Many of Swamp Head’s employees are Gainesville natives, with a passion for beer and the outdoors. In 2015, the employee count went from 6 to more than 20, and we hire locally for newly created jobs whenever possible.

“[Big Breweries] buy a machine that does the work of ten people. We hire the ten people.”

-Brandon Nappy, Tactical Marketing Manager

OUR 2016: THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

We are continuing to develop new and innovative ways that we can grow our sustainability efforts. Stay tuned in 2016 for a continued and growing effort to not only move closer to 100% carbon neutrality, but to continue to grow our company in the most responsible way we can.

ADDITIONAL INFO***

In 2015, Swamp Head planted 20,543 longleaf pine trees through Alachua Conservation Trust. Longleaf pines have a survival rate of 80%, meaning 16,362 trees will survive to absorb carbon dioxide.

Each longleaf absorbs roughly 5 kg of carbon dioxide per year.

~5 kg of carbon dioxide times the 16,362 trees planted in 2015 = ~81,812 kg carbon dioxide per year. That equals 81.812 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent that will be sequestered due to Swamp Head's tree planting.*

*This is assuming an 80% survival rate and a lifespan of at least 100 years. Currently these are not verified offsets