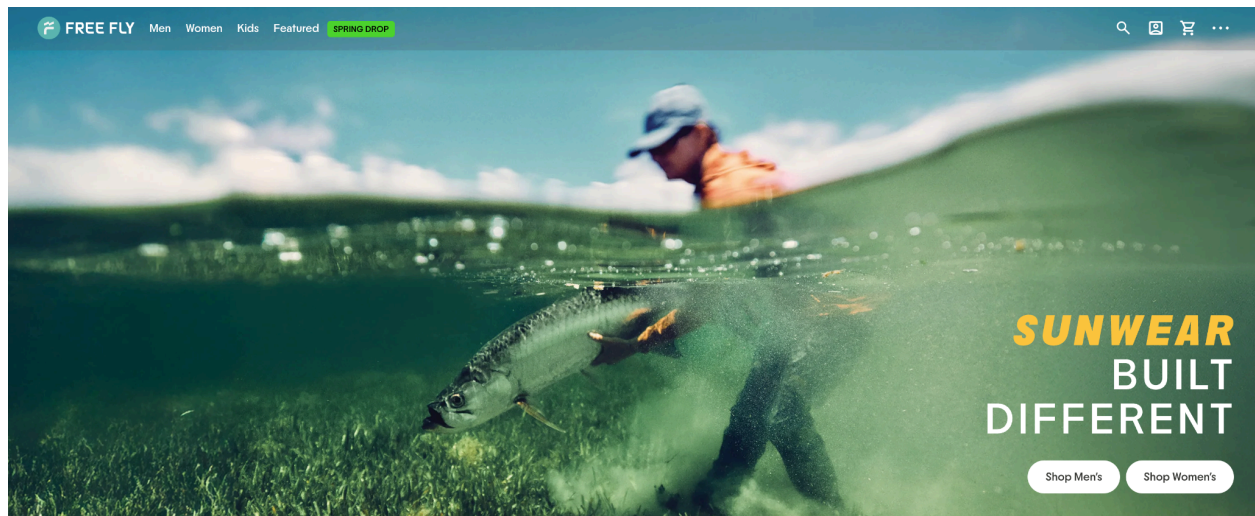


Update for Members:

We had our latest Directors meeting on April 10, 2025.

We have found our way into Sheets and Shirts! - About a year ago I contacted many of the textile companies that use bamboo in their clothing, companies like Cozy Earth and others. I left messages but got no response. This past week I got a call from Free Fly Apparel. They want to pursue this with us. We have essentially determined to partner together such that our industry will raise up an interested entrepreneur that will create a processing factory here to provide Free Fly Apparel what they need to make their great bamboo clothing. Check out their website at <https://freeflyapparel.com/?srsltid=AfmBOors54EHLvwwZOZbQrkoHimCYoNwjyBqPTW1M7ZgarKwlhABHx3H>. They have lots of experience themselves and have shared the technology which I have passed on to some of our members. Our markets are growing!





Finances - We have received 30% of our annual dues renewals. We would like to receive these earlier so please go ahead and mail your check in!

Annual Meeting - Our Annual Meeting will be held on **December 3, 2025** (a Wednesday!) at a new location, the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred. This is where we have our monthly Directors meetings as it's the hub for our UF/IFAS connection. It also has easier access for out of state Members.

Crop Insurance - Peter Chaires and I are exploring the potential to get crop insurance without having to prove individual farm production for 3 years. It may be possible for us to use our Key Project data as a resource for determining normal production by year. Crop insurance is one of the more valuable tools that agriculture uses to manage risk. More to come!

Harvest Planning - we expect to harvest over 400 acres in 2025. This is divided somewhat evenly between Mario Barajas's crews which will harvest the farms delivering to OnlyMoso and Florida Fresh Bamboo's (FFB) crews which harvest the crops delivering to their facility. Both operations have received training from our Committee (Ben and myself) and will have more coming. I'm driving the crews to most of the locations so they will be familiar. We understand that FFB's

specifications will be 2.5"+ base diameter (tapping into our understanding that young farms will have 40% more production with just this small difference from 3" diameter) and lengths of 10"-20". We understand that OnlyMoso will use last year's specifications of 3" diameter or greater and 15"-18" length.

We had a lengthy discussion where most expressed their concern that we do not have the confusion and disruption experienced last season. We also expressed our interest in protection for new harvesting farms from limitations on their harvest.

Next Meeting - the 2nd Thursday in May which is May 8th.