



October 1, 2014

TREE COUNTRY SC

From the desk of...

STATE FORESTER
Gene Kodama



Good day,

The National Association of State Foresters' (NASF) Annual Meeting was held last week in St. Paul, Minnesota. Tim Adams and I attended. The Minnesota State Forester and his team, and the NASF staff did a wonderful job of arranging, conducting, and hosting the meeting. The theme of the meeting was "Working Forests Work" meaning "Working forests are America's greatest renewable resource, providing everything from clean air and water to the wood and paper products we use every day." This is certainly true here in South Carolina where forestry is a number one economic engine. Another common thread to the meeting was recognition that the forestry economic engine must be balanced between the supply of wood produced by landowners and the demand from the markets and mills that consume the wood. This balance is necessary for forestry to be economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable into the future.

The meeting included business sessions, national committee meetings, regional meetings, award presentations, speakers, discussion panels, a field trip, and networking time for attendees. The week was completely full of activities; intense and very productive. Attendees included the state foresters, state forestry staff, speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and partners. All of these participants working together as a team and as partners are needed to ensure the successful management and utilization of the nation's forests. Some of the forestry leaders participating the meeting included Tom Tidwell, (Chief of the US Forest Service), Hans Wenger (Chief Sustainability Officer of the National Geographic Society), Dr. Jeffrey Howe (Chairman of Dovetail Partners, Inc.), Dan Lambe (President of the Arbor Day Foundation), and Sarah Crowe (Director of Certification



Gene Kodama and Rick Cantrell (NASF) visit the Minnesota DNR exhibit.



Tim Adams discusses the Forest Inventory and Analysis program with Jamie Barbour (USFS).

(Continued on page 2)

NOTE: The next Bulletin will be October 22.

– American Forest Foundation).

As a part of the NASF gathering and as Chair of the Association's Forest Markets Committee, we held a face-to-face Committee meeting since most of its members were present. The Committee continues to work toward its vision of helping to halt the United States' loss of global market share of wood products. The focus has been to help remedy or stop policies, laws, or regulations that negatively impact forest markets and to expand the use of wood and wood products. Successes have been made, but much work is still needed. An improving US economy and an increase in housing starts would be a major positive factor in improving market share since the US is still the world's number one producer, exporter, and importer of wood products.

A highlight of the meeting was a field trip. Attendees saw one of the many Minnesota School forests on K – 12 school properties that range in size from less than an acre to over 300 hundred acres. The school forest concept was created with the passage of a state statute which authorized public education institutions to establish school forests in 1949. These forests are used to teach not only the sciences but also the arts, and generate outdoor education and appreciation by students and the public that visit the forests. We visited a Minnesota National Guard facility to see the Guard equipment that assists with wildfire suppression when needed and the air tankers that are owned or contracted for wildfire suppression by the Minnesota state forestry organization. The arrangement with the Guard is similar to the agreement that our Forestry Commission has with the SC National Guard. South Carolina has had contracted air tankers in the past but does not currently have that capacity. Air tankers work well in Minnesota due to the remoteness of much of the state's forests and the abundant water sources available due to its 11,000 lakes. We also visited their tree nursery where its mission is similar to our Commission's tree improvement and nursery program. This mission is designed to ensure that private landowners are adequately supplied with seedlings and that genetic improvement is not only conducted but is also effectively implemented across the state and available to the state's private landowners.

The NASF continues to be a national and global forestry leader by accomplishing its mission of "represent(ing) State and Territorial Forester interests by influencing forest policy and leading efforts to promote healthy and sustainable trees and forests." The SC Forestry Commission plays an active role in the Association and is proud to be a member of the Association and a partner with its many forestry allies.

Best regards,

Gene



Minnesota School Forest on NASF field trip.



Minnesota's DNR bombardier tanker.



Minnesota's contracted tanker demonstration.

Quote of the Week

A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life.

Charles Darwin

New Employees

The Forestry Commission has two new employees that have started in the last few weeks, and both are named Doug.

Doug Marshall is the new FIA Forester for the Coastal Region. His first day of employment was Sept. 17. Doug will live and work in Walterboro. He has a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida and received his Master's Degree in Forestry from Auburn University. Doug has previous work experience at Clemson University and the University of Georgia. In his spare time, Doug enjoys hiking, traveling and land restoration.



Doug Marshall

Doug Wood is the new *Director of Communication and Public Information*. His first day of employment was Sept. 22. Doug will direct, plan and develop communication strategies and long-range public information, marketing and educational programs for the Commission. This position has the lead role in communication and public information for the agency.



Doug Wood

Doug has a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from Auburn University-Montgomery and a master's Degree in Public Relations Management from the University of South Carolina. He has over 16 years of communications, marketing and public relations experience and has worked as a freelance graphic and website designer. Doug lives in Columbia with his wife and two children. He enjoys camping, hiking and fishing, and he also plays the guitar and banjo.

Please welcome Doug Marshall and Doug Wood to the Forestry Commission.

County Payments from Receipts

The South Carolina Forestry Commission has begun distributing annual payouts to the counties on which state forest lands reside.

Funds come from revenue generated by forest product sales (timber and pine straw) and recreation/user fees on state forest lands and other agency land. The money is given to counties for education, sometimes directly to school districts themselves.

SCFC county payouts are made in lieu of property taxes and represent 25 percent of the total revenue earned by state forestland in a given county during the fiscal year. The payments and rate were set by a 1957 law and are now two to three times the average forestland property tax. The South Carolina Forestry Commission is the only state agency that returns revenue to local education this way.

Payouts total \$585,419.76 across 12 counties, demonstrating that proper, sustainable forest management is good business for the private *and* public landowner.

2014 Payments to Counties

Allendale	\$1,113.48
Chesterfield	\$378,822.93
Clarendon	\$10,066.80
Darlington	\$9,751.71
Georgetown	\$193.84
Jasper	\$991.49
Kershaw	\$3,869.50
Oconee	\$1,339.69
Pickens	\$3,450.67
Richland	\$15,805.96
Sumter	\$145,853.96
Williamsburg	\$14,159.73
TOTAL	\$585,419.76

FOREST HEALTH—Laurie Reid

Pine Health Survey

Researchers with the D.B. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia will be mailing a survey to South Carolina landowners to assess their knowledge of pine health issues in the next few weeks. Please take the time to complete this important survey. All answers are kept confidential, and information from this survey will help the South Carolina Forestry Commission with landowner education efforts.

HUMAN RESOURCES—Lynn Rivers

Open Enrollment

This is an abbreviated description of insurance changes during open enrollment effective October 1-31, 2014. Please refer to the *2014 Insurance Advantage (attached)*, visit www.eip.sc.gov or attend one of the agency's benefits overview sessions for more information.

October 1-31, 2014 is open enrollment for active state employees. Employees can change their coverage anywhere they have internet access using *MyBenefits*, the online enrollment system from the Employee Insurance Program (EIP). *MyBenefits* ensures a speedy transmission of coverage changes. First-time users must register. Instructions for registering for *MyBenefits* can be found on page 5 of the 2014 *Insurance Advantage*. Open enrollment changes made during the month of October 2014 will be effective January 1, 2015.

Employee insurance premiums will **not** increase for 2015. The annual deductibles, copays, coinsurances, and prescription drug copays will increase slightly.

During open enrollment, active employees can make the following changes:

Health Insurance – you may enroll in, change or drop health plans for yourself and/or your eligible family members.

Vision - you may enroll in or drop vision coverage for yourself and/or your eligible family members.

Optional Life – you may enroll in, increase, decrease or cancel your Optional Life Insurance coverage.

Dependent Life Spouse – You **cannot** enroll your spouse in Dependent Life-Spouse coverage without medical evidence of good health. You **can** enroll your eligible child in Dependent Life-Child coverage. If your eligible family members are already enrolled in Dependent Life coverage, you may decrease or cancel the coverage.

MoneyPlu\$ - you can enroll in Flexible Spending Accounts. If you are enrolled in MoneyPlu\$ Medical Spending or Dependent Care, you must re-enroll to continue accounts for 2015. This can be done electronically at www.myFBMC.com.

For additional information, plan to attend a benefits overview session at location below:

Pee Dee

October 13	9:30 AM	Manchester State Forest-6740 Headquarters Road, Wedgefield
	1:30 PM	Marion Office-136 Airport Court, Mullins

Coastal

October 14	9:30 AM	Coastal Regional Office; Walterboro-413 Sidneys Road, Walterboro
	1:30 PM	Coastal Regional Office; Walterboro-413 Sidneys Road, Walterboro

Piedmont

October 15	9:30 AM	Spartanburg Office-725 Hwy 56 S., Spartanburg
	1:30 PM	Newberry Regional Office, 39 General Henderson Rd, Newberry

Columbia

October 21	9:30 AM	SC Forestry Commission, 5500 Broad River Rd, Columbia
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HUMAN RESOURCES—Lynn Rivers

BlueChoice HMO No Longer Offered

The BlueChoice HealthPlan HMO will not be offered in 2015. Subscribers who are enrolled in BlueChoice should choose another plan or drop health coverage during open enrollment (in October 2014). BlueChoice did not renew its contract with PEBA due to declining enrollment and increasing costs. BlueChoice subscribers who do not choose another health plan during open enrollment will be automatically enrolled in the State Health Plan Standard Plan.

TRAINING—Leslie Woodham

CPFM Courses

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is offering training for individuals seeking to be a Certified Prescribed Fire Managers. Certification and proper burn execution can reduce the liability for those conducting outdoor burning. Training sessions are scheduled as follows:

<i>Wednesday, October 8, 2014</i>	<i>Columbia</i>
<i>Wednesday, October 22, 2014</i>	<i>Florence</i>
<i>Thursday, November 13, 2014</i>	<i>Walterboro</i>
<i>Wednesday, January 7, 2015</i>	<i>Columbia</i>

The one-day course teaches managers how to plan prescribed burns that comply with South Carolina Smoke Management Guidelines. These regulations are mandatory for all forestry, wildlife and agricultural burning in South Carolina. A prescribed burner does not have the smoke-related liability protection provided by the Prescribed Fire Act if they are not certified.

The course is not intended to teach individuals how to burn, but rather how to manage smoke from prescribed fires under these regulations and create awareness of legal issues associated with outdoor burning.

Certification requires that an individual complete this training, pass a written exam, and document one's burning experience. Each session will begin at 8:30 am, and close by 5:00 pm with an administered test.

To register for the course, please complete the enclosed [registration form](#), and mail it with your \$50 registration fee. Applications are accepted on a first come-first served basis. The deadline for registration is three weeks prior to the course.

Reference materials and specific details regarding locations will be mailed two weeks prior to each session. If you have further questions, please call Leslie Woodham at 803-896-8809.

7 SECURITY HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PC USERS

Part 5 of 7 (*HP Technology at Work* March, 2014)

You might not think about it when you're browsing the web, shopping online and interacting on social media, but you are the first line of defense against cyber security risks. The power to be safe is in your hands and at your fingertips. Developing and maintaining good habits can make online activity much safer and more enjoyable for you and your colleagues. The following good habits take only minutes to learn and are easy enough to incorporate into your daily work life.

5. Identify URLs before clicking

Simply stated: think before you click. A malicious website that looks legitimate is a common method used by criminals. However, verifying the real destination is easy—just place your cursor over the displayed URL, and the true destination will reveal itself with a small pop-up. **Don't click if it looks suspicious.**

For URL shorteners like tinyurl.com and bit.ly, simply add a plus sign (+) to the end of the URL to display its true source. For QR codes, choose a reader app that allows you to preview the destination before opening the link. And when it comes to mobile apps and software, download from a trusted source, like Google Play, Microsoft.com or Java.com.

EDUCATION—Stephanie Kolok

Wood Magic at Piedmont Forestry Center

The first Wood Magic Forest Fair of the year was held at the Piedmont Forestry Center from September 16-19, 2014. There were 482 students in attendance during the four days, and 109 volunteers assisted with the event. With teachers and chaperones, the total attendance for the week was 642.

The goal of the Wood Magic program is to teach kids how important forests and forest products are in their everyday lives. Through sustainable forest management we can enjoy the many benefits of a growing forest, including harvesting trees for the thousands of products that improve our quality of life. The program offers a multitude of hands-on activities.

A big THANKS goes to all of the volunteers who guided classes, served food, and taught stations. Without them, the program would not be feasible. Paul and Judi Blessing did another fabulous job hosting and the grounds looked pristine. It takes a long time to get all of the grass cut and it is greatly appreciated! Many thanks to all of the Piedmont Region employees who helped set up Monday and clean up Friday. That teamwork can't be beat!

The next Wood Magic will be held at Harbison State Forest Oct. 6-10, 2014.



SCFC personnel- (left) Russell Hubright, David Owen, and Roy Boyd fill the popcorn bags. (right) Ray Cassell leads a group of fourth graders to their station.



(left) Greg Lucas (DNR) gets tangled in the "Web of Life" at the Gifts station. (right) Jamie Jones (SCFC) holds a freshly cut board at the sawmill station.



(left) Michael Weeks (SCFC) explains how to take oxygen away from a fire with a flap. (right) Robert Jones (SCFC) takes a class to the unburned forest at the Good Fire station.



WOOD MAGIC (continued)



(left) Robert Jones (SCFC) and a student “talk” to the trees. (right) Guy Sabin (SCFA) and Russell Hubright (SCFC) perform their “wood” magic.



(left) Clemson forestry students helped out on Tuesday. (right) SCFC personnel Isaac Case and David Bagwell carry pizzas.



(left) Paul Blessing (SCFC) delivers a freshly cut board at the sawmill station. (right) Gretchen Spaulding (SCFC) helps at the Paper Makin' station.



Log a Load for Kids

The SC Forestry Association is sponsoring Log A Load For kids—a campaign to raise funds for children’s hospitals who help treat ill and injured children. All funds raised locally are designated and remain with the children’s hospital in your area.



The Log A Load program originated in South Carolina in 1988 as a way to demonstrate loggers’ commitment to community service and professionalism. The concept was for loggers and wood-supplying businesses to donate the value of a load of logs to a Children’s Miracle Network-affiliated hospital. The program is now national, with participation from 27 states.

Please commit to support this project by completing a Log A Load For Kids pledge card today and return it to the SCFA by **October 15th**. For more information and pledge cards, go to <http://www.scforestry.org/log-a-load-for-kids>.

Water Handling Training

Fire management training on the use of water at wildfires was held at Harbison State Forest on September 9-11 for 19 new fireline employees hired within the last five years. S-211, or Water Handling as we refer to it, covers the use of water, portable pumps, foam, and nozzle types used in fighting and mopping up wildfires. The second group of employees will be trained October 13-15.



Brad Bramlett and Michael McGill instruct one division of the class in filling a "pumpkin" portable tank.



Instructor Chet Foyle helps students get the pump cranked.



Blake Morris and Alan Wallace, Jr. pull a pump to their station.



Students fill up a "pumpkin" tank with water.



Brad Jones waits on the approval to turn on the pump.



A new Type 3 engine was used in the training.



Sam St. Louis, Billy Cockrell, Clarence Cook, and Sam Anderson assist in the supply trailer.



Jacqueline Lintzenich demonstrates her water skills while HQ employees Erica Brazile and Lenora Stukes learn how we use water.



Cody Watts sprays foam as a part of the training.

FALL FUN

What did one autumn leaf say to another?
I'm falling for you.



URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY—Lowe Sharpe

SC Arborist Workshop

A sold-out crowd of arborists attended the Fall South Carolina Arborist Workshop (SCAW) on September 11th at the Harbison State Forest Education Center to continue their education and maintain their credentials as the caregivers for South Carolina's urban trees. Outdoor demonstrations included Urban Wood Recycling (Denny Defibaugh of Schneider Tree Care), Ascending and Maneuvering in Trees—an Introduction to Single Rope Technique (Jason Brown of Schnieder Tree Care), and Root Flare Excavation and Other Soil Remediation Techniques (Nate Dubosh of MUSC).

Demonstration of a portable sawmill with examples of unique products were also on site for the arborists to view. Opportunities for "waste wood" to be converted into useable products are becoming more popular across South Carolina. The climbing arborists from Schneider Tree Care ascended a tall longleaf pine and demonstrated some of the current single rope climbing techniques, safety and equipment. Climbing arborists fill an important role in the care of trees located in locations that are inaccessible with equipment.

Finally, an air spade demonstration was set up in the yard of Harbison State Forest to demonstrate how compacted soil can be loosened without damaging the roots of trees. Air spades are also used for creating space to install utility service without having to cut tree roots. The indoor session consisted of "Fungi Identification" (Dr. Julia Kerrigan, Clemson University), "Understanding Tomography" (Jonathan Simmons, Arbor Source), "Tree Growth Regulators, What They Are and When to Use Them" (Josh Franz, Carolina Tree Care) and "The Impact of Unwanted Vegetation in the Green Industry and Innovative Management Solutions" (Roxie Lee, Utaw Group, LLC).

The workshop is always well attended and greatly appreciated by the certified arborists of South Carolina.

The SCAW is offered in the spring and fall and is coordinated by Trees SC. Trees SC, formerly the South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council, was founded in 1991 as a non-profit organization to foster the stewardship of South Carolina's urban and community forests through

education, advocacy and network. These forests include all the trees in your community: tree-lined roads, parks, neighborhoods, and commercial building sites. Taking care of the trees in these areas benefits the environmental, social and economic well-being of your community.

A matching grant from the US Forest Service is administered by the SC Forestry to support Trees SC, along with various corporate sponsors and the membership dues of over 300 people.



Jason Brown (Schnieder Tree Care) ascends to the crown of a longleaf pine using a single rope technique at the SC Arborist Workshop.



Denny Defibaugh (Schnieder Tree Care) answers questions about the utilization and marketing of urban wood "waste".



Nathan Dubosh (MUSC) explains the uses of an air spade and demonstrates the advantages over mechanical equipment.

ADMINISTRATION—Judy Lucas

Records Management

Budget Proviso 101.32 in the FY 2014-2015 State Appropriation Act states that *“All state agencies must adopt and implement cyber security policies, guidelines, and standards developed by the Division of State Technology.”* Not only should we be mindful of securing the records on our computers but also those that are in paper form or in another media form in our offices. As agency Records Officer, I am requesting that each employee perform an assessment of their records and identify those with sensitive and personally identifiable information and ensure that they are either destroyed in accordance with established retention schedules and/or secured until they have reached the end of their life cycle. Each employee should work with their respective liaison officer to accomplish this task. Should the liaison officer not be able to assist, please contact me at (803) 896-8851 or jlucas@scfc.gov. Below is an updated listing of SCFC liaison officers for your reference.

SCFC Liaison Officers are as follows:

State Forester's Office, Deputy State Forester's Office - Tonya Steadman
 Resource Development, FIA & BMP – Tonya Steadman
 Internal Audit – Judy Lucas
 Education & Information Technology – Michelle Johnson
 Dispatch – Libby Martin
 Construction & Real Property – Lenora Stukes
 Administration – Emily Smith
 Forest Protection & Law Enforcement – Judy Lucas
 Forest Management, Stewardship, State Lands & Urban – Debbie Kiser
 Pee Dee Region – Susan Gensel
 Black River Unit – Susan Gensel
 Lynches River Unit - Karen McIntosh
 Coastal Region – Charlotte Grant
 Edisto Unit – Charlotte Grant
 Santee Unit - Vicki Irick
 Piedmont Region – Kay Counts
 Manchester State Forest – Linda Mungia
 Sand Hills State Forest – Sue Creech
 Harbison State Forest – Lisa Hart
 Taylor Nursery - Michelle Ray
 Niederhof Seed Orchard - Chris King

During the month of November, I will be coordinating with the respective vendor to perform our on-site shredding in Columbia. Given this, please review your records during the month of October and advise me of any records you wish to include.

URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY—Dena Jacob

Anderson Tree Canopy Session

Trees SC partnered with the city of Anderson Sept. 18 to host a community forestry workshop as a “canopy session” on tree care topics for area professionals, municipal employees, and local citizens. Karen Hauck, Executive Director for Trees SC, did a fantastic job in organizing the event along with members of the Canopy Sessions Committee, including, Danny Jones (city of Rock Hill), Derrick Phinney (Clemson Extension, St. George), Eddie Bernard (town of Mount Pleasant) and Dena Jacob (SCFC Piedmont Urban Forester).

The two-hour workshop, designed as a “lunch and learn” format, featured four outstanding presentations from highly-qualified speakers in the field of urban forestry, including two professors from Clemson University, Dr. Sarah White and Dr. Bob Polomski, Danny Jones from the city of Rock Hill, and retired SCFC Urban Forester, Jimmy Walters.

Dr. Sarah White, Associate Professor of Horticulture and Extension Specialist, provided an excellent presentation on selecting high quality nursery stock. She focused on Florida's successful “Florida Fancy” nursery grading system program and explained that the Florida Fancy grading system used by the state mandates a higher level of quality for all plants and trees that go into the landscape. This system has been highly successful and is designed to improve plant success and foster improved longevity in the urban environment.

Danny Jones, Landscape Architect for the city of Rock Hill, presented an insightful presentation on site preparation

(Continued from page 10)

and planning for new trees in the urban landscape. He focused on identifying various site restrictions, both above and below ground, during the planning process and evaluating options for mitigating restriction and nutrient deficiency. He emphasized that urban trees are often installed into tree planters ("tree pits") that lack suitable soil volume needed to support a healthy urban tree and that improving space limitations and soil conditions will greatly improve a tree's chances of success. Cities often overlook the idle space available that can be added to tree planters.



Jimmy Walters presents on tree installation and maintenance.

Dr. Bob Polomski, Professor of Horticulture and Urban Forestry, Clemson University, focused on selecting appropriate species to plant in the urban environment and conducting planting site assessments, prior to planting. He also emphasized the need for proper tree care and management post-planting, to maintain healthy trees in the urban landscape. Proper pruning technique, appropriate watering and maintenance of mulch beds are all critical to the success and health of urban trees.

Retired SCFC Urban Forester Jimmy Walters shared his thoughts on proper tree installation and the post-planting maintenance requirements for trees in the urban environment. He discussed how to properly prepare different types of tree stock prior to planting, including the removal of circling roots and thorough removal of nursery handling materials. Jimmy enlightened the audience with several pictures and illustrations contrasting both correct and incorrect techniques to use when planting trees and the importance of properly inspecting and preparing stock before planting into the landscape. He emphasized that in addition to proper planting depth and technique, proper watering regimen and proper installation and maintenance of a mulching bed is very critical to the health and success of the trees after planting.

Special thanks to Trees SC and the city of Anderson for their partnership effort in making this canopy session workshop a huge success! Canopy Sessions are community forestry workshops designed to help educate and address local community forestry concerns, benefitting the education of municipal employees responsible for tree care and local citizens. Trees SC is a non-profit organization that fosters the stewardship of South Carolina's urban and community forests through education, advocacy and networking. For more information on Trees SC and future urban forestry educational events, visit their website at: <http://www.treessc.org>.

Landowners Encouraged to Apply for Prioritized NRCS Funding

South Carolina farmers interested in reducing soil erosion, improving water quality, and creating wildlife habitat on their land have until **December 19, 2014**, to be considered for funding through USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for fiscal year 2015.

Through EQIP, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial and technical assistance to install conservation practices such as nutrient management, heavy use areas, grassed waterways, cover crops, manure management facilities, and pasture management.

EQIP, one of USDA's most popular conservation programs, is offered through a continuous signup, but NRCS periodically makes application selections as funding allows. Last year, SC NRCS provided \$13 million in EQIP financial assistance to South Carolina farmers.

Jack Lewis, SC NRCS Acting State Conservationist, says it is important for farmers to get program applications in early. "Conservation plans must be developed for the area that is included in an EQIP contract," he said. "When farmers develop a complete conservation plan for their farm, it speeds up the application process and oftentimes practices are applied more strategically."

There are several EQIP initiatives included in the signup, where NRCS sets aside financial assistance for specific practices and producers. Examples include practices that improve on-farm energy, assist in the organic transition process, add wildlife habitat, and target certain practices such as seasonal high tunnels.

SC NRCS also sets aside 10 percent of the SC EQIP financial assistance program for Special Emphasis applicants, which includes beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, limited resource producers, and veterans.

Visit your local NRCS office today for more information about conservation planning and financial assistance to fund conservation practices on your farm, or go to www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL FORESTRY—Herb Nicholson

Sand Hills Road Drainage Project

A "French Mattress" was recently installed on Flory Pond road on Sand Hills State Forest to address a poorly drained section of the road. What is a French Mattress? Probably not what you think. It is a structure under a road consisting of clean coarse rock wrapped in geotextile fabric through which water can pass freely.



Road before work began (taken when relatively dry).

Construction began when the site was dry. A six foot wide by three foot deep area was excavated from the road. The pit was lined with geotextile fabric and filled with Class A rip-rap along the bottom and bedding stone on top of that. The geotextile was wrapped around the stone and covered with approximately 18 inches of dirt. A "pit" was dug on the uphill side to collect water to allow for seepage under the road and out the other side into undisturbed forest floor. All disturbed areas were mulched with pine straw, since there is no shortage of that at Sand Hills. Total cost of the project was under \$1,000.00.

The mattress is reportedly working to help drain the area. A sign will be placed at the sight in the near future to explain the project and to give visitors ideas on how to deal with similar issues on their own property. For more information on how to construct a French mattress, visit http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/resources/documents/French_Mattress_2010_HC_Update.pdf.

The poorly drained area on the road was a result of being the low spot between two long, steep sections of road, and receiving overland flow from a springhead along the grassed dam of Flory Pond.



The pit is lined with geotextile fabric.



Steve Marshall inspects the pit.



Jimmy Smith dumps the first load of Class A rip rap as Tim Hunt, Steve Marshall and Brian Davis look on.



The mattress full of stone ready to be wrapped in geotextile fabric.



The finished product with the armored pit for water collection in the foreground.

2014 Tree Farm Awards and Field Tour

The South Carolina Tree Farm Program held its annual awards ceremony and field tour Friday, September 26 at 2013 Tree Farmer of the Year Mike Meetze's tree farm in Newberry County.

The Meetze family property proved to be the perfect setting for the occasion, offering a naturally beautiful landscape as the backdrop for the event and showcasing a textbook variety of stewardship, conservation and land management practices.

Hundreds of participants gathered on the front lawn of the Meetze family's homestead tract for a lively membership rally, awards presentation and lunch before splitting up to visit five different tour stops. Each stop featured a different aspect of forestry and/or land management, including a portable sawmill operation, a pond management seminar, a small-scale logging demonstration, an upland wildlife management lecture and a commercial thinning presentation.

Three winners were awarded District Tree Farmers of the Year: Leland "Lee" Bryson from Seneca in District 1, William "Billy" Nowlen from Camden in District 2 and James "Jimmy" Sanders from Greenwood in District 5. They now vie for the 2014 State Tree Farmer of the Year Award, which will be presented at the South Carolina Forestry Association's annual meeting in Hilton Head November 5-7.



2013 Tree Farmer of the Year Mike Meetze welcomes the attendees.



Jimmy Sanders receives his District 5 winner plaque from Tree Farm Recognition Chairman Russell Hubright.



Wildlife biologist Bob Harkins emphasizing that wildlife priorities can be balanced with other land use objectives such as farming and timber operations.



Procurement forester Chris Koon, and consulting forester Alvin Feltman explain the process of thinning to regulate the number, quality and distribution of trees.



Billy Nowlen receives his District 2 winner plaque.



Clemson Extension Service agent Cory Heaton instructs attendees on best practices in pond management.



Howard Bouknight demonstrates portable timber sawmill operation.



Leland Bryson receives his District 1 winner plaque.

SERVICE AWARDS for October

Nelson Wilson	Piedmont West	10 Years State and Agency Service
Paul Branch	Lynches River Unit	10 Years State and Agency Service
Wayne Springs	Black River Unit	10 Years State and Agency Service
Whit Player	Lynches River Unit	10 Years State and Agency Service
O'Neal Davis	Santee Unit	15 Years State and Agency Service
Steve Jordan	Black River Unit	20 Years State and Agency Service
Don Stone	Piedmont West	20 Years State and Agency Service

Recent Service Award Photos



Vicki Irick received her 10-year service certificate from Coastal Regional Forester Calvin Bailey at the Regional staff meeting in Walterboro on September 19th.



Clay Chaplin received his 5-year service certificate from BMP Coordinator Herb Nicholson.



Chisolm Beckham received his 10-year service certificate from State Forester Gene Kodama at the September staff meeting in Columbia.

More service award photos on the next page.

REMINDER to Employees: I just wanted to remind all employees to please send in your photos and information of events going on in your area regarding the SCFC...any type of recognition ceremony, important meetings, employee fun, and especially fires. I only want to make the Bulletin the best I can and it's hard to do that without information from ALL of the offices. Please keep this in mind and send your information and photos in. Thanks! Send them to: mjohnson@scfc.gov.

More Service Award Photos



Piedmont dispatcher Mandy Burge received her 10-year service certificate from Dispatch Operations Coordinator Libby Martin.



Piedmont dispatcher Tracy Fulmer received her 20-year service certificate and pin from Dispatch Operations Coordinator Libby Martin.



Coastal dispatcher Loretta Reid received her 10-year service certificate from Dispatch Manager Kelly Banks.



Several employees received state service awards and pins at the September Staff Meeting in Columbia on September 15th. Those receiving awards were: (front) Lisa Mowbray (30 years), Laurie Reid (10 years), David West (30 years), Cathy Nordeen (20 years), Donald Bryant (20 years), (back row) Ken McInnis (40 years), Harvey Belser (20 years), Harry Blount (10 years), Trip Miller (10 years), Herb Nicholson (10 years), Pete Stuckey (20 years), and Billy Cockrell (20 years).

Congratulations!

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

JOB TITLE: Information Resource Consultant II

CLOSING DATE: 10/03/14 11:59 PM

AGENCY HIRING RANGE : \$38,703.00—\$55,155.00

LOCATION: Richland County, South Carolina

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

Directs and participates in the operation, support and data security of the local and wide area networks connecting the agency's servers and workstations statewide. Implements safeguards and security policies and procedures to protect confidential information and the agency's computer systems. Ensures that hardware and software functions properly, performs preventative maintenance, and arranges for repairs or replacements as needed. Manages and performs new hardware and software configuration, installation, setup and deployment to end users.

MINIMUM AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

A bachelor's degree and two (2) years work experience in information technology and computer network system design, installation, operation and repair. Related experience may be substituted for the bachelor's degree on a year-for-year basis.

SCFC Commissioner Receives SAF Award

Commissioner Ed Muckenfuss received his Golden Member Award for 50 years of service to SAF (Society of American Foresters) at the Edisto Chapter meeting in June. Ed received the award from Brian Fiacco, Edisto Chapter Chair.

Several SCFC retirees received Golden Member Awards for 50 years of service to SAF as well. They include: Dean Carson, Pete Spearman, Gene Lambrecht, Posey Copeland, and Forest Murphy. Jeff Baumann and Tim Adams were recognized for their service to SAF as past Division officers.

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, it is the largest professional society for foresters in the world. The mission of the Society of American Foresters is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and, to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society. SAF is a nonprofit organization meeting the requirements of 501 (c) (3). SAF members include natural resource professionals in public and private settings, researchers, CEOs, administrators, educators, and students.



Commissioner Ed Muckenfuss receives his Golden SAF Award from Brian Fiacco.

FREE FORESTRY WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS - REGISTER NOW!

Please join the South Carolina Forestry Commission and The Conservation Fund for a free workshop to learn more about ways to identify and maximize economic and recreational impact of local agency working lands.

Workshops will provide an overview on forest management, working with consulting foresters, funding and other resources, and a site visit to forest management in action. Sign up now! The workshop is free and lunch is provided, but space is limited.

The program is intended for elected officials, local government staff, parks/recreation and public works leaders, school officials, maintenance professionals, and others with responsibility for forested lands owned by local governments.

Workshops will be held across the state – October 1 in Florence, October 2 in Awendaw, October 8 in Columbia and October 9 in Greenwood. Additional information and links to register for the remaining workshops are below:

October 8, 10:00-3:30

The River Center at Saluda Shoals Park , Columbia SC 29210

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advancing-community-forestry-for-environmental-economic-and-community-well-being-registration-12986889135>

October 9 10:00-3:30

Piedmont Technical College, Building B, Greenwood SC 29646

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advancing-community-forestry-for-environmental-economic-and-community-well-being-registration-12986913207>

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

"What an Angel"



These photos of the Angel Oak were sent in from Santee Unit Administrative Assistant Vicki Irick when she visited the tree on John's Island recently. This tree is huge and is featured in the story on the next page on Southern Live Oaks.

Please send in your funny, scenic or interesting photos to mjohnson@scfc.gov.



The Southern Live Oak

The Southern Live Oak or simply "Live Oak" (*Quercus virginiana*) is an evergreen (or nearly so) oak tree native to the southeastern United States. The tree is a common sight in states like Virginia, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina.

While the largest trees in the US, in terms of wood volume, are a few conifer tree species like the giant sequoia and the coastal redwood on the western side of the Rocky Mountains, the Southern Live Oak is the biggest tree species on the eastern side of the Rockies, together with the bald cypress. The Live Oak is not a very tall species, but has a widespread canopy with heavy branches. Most of the wood is situated in these branches, as opposed to the conifer trees mentioned earlier, where most of the wood is in the tall trunk.

The largest measured Southern Live Oak, named the "**Middleton Oak**", grows in Middleton, South Carolina. In 2004, when the Middleton Oak was measured, the tree had a total wood volume of roughly 4,820 cubic feet and was the largest tree in eastern US until 2012 this tree was only surpassed by "The Senator", a bald cypress tree in Florida. However, beginning 2008, the tree (Middleton Oak) lost a large part of its crown, heavily reducing its total wood volume.



The Middleton Oak.

Near the Middleton Oak, on another plantation in the vicinity of Charleston, South Carolina, another famous Live Oak can be visited, the "**Angel Oak**".

The Angel Oak tree is often called the oldest living thing in the US east of the Mississippi and is often cited to be over 1500 years old. While the first fact might be true for a single, non-resprouting tree, the second is almost certain an exaggeration. Age estimations for this tree are not scientifically substantiated, but a comparison with live oak trees for which the growth rings were counted and a comparison with proven ages for deciduous oak trees in temperate climates (where trees grow slower) makes an age of less than 600 years more likely.

The Angel Oak stands 65 feet tall, with a girth of about 28 feet in diameter, and the crown covers an area of 17,000 square feet. Its longest limb is 89 feet in length. The tree and surrounding park have been owned by the city of Charleston since 1991. The oak derives its name from the Angel estate, although local folklore told of stories of ghosts of former slaves would appear as angels around the tree.



The Angel Oak located in the lowcountry of South Carolina.

FALL FUN

If money really did grow on trees, autumn would be the best season ever!



In Other News...

Klausner to Start Production at Sawmill in Florida

The president of Klausner Trading USA expects production at Klausner's sawmill in Suwannee County, Florida, will begin in the next few months.

Thomas Mende said the hiring process had already started for the sawmill, known as Klausner Lumber One and owned by the Austrian Klausner group. Mende said the company was looking forward to production coming into "full swing," noting that the mills pine lumber production would serve both domestic and international markets. Around 200 (mostly local) workers are employed in the construction and installation of the sawmill.

CareerSource North Florida has previously indicated that the sawmill is likely to commence operations with one shift with a workforce of 50-100. At full production the mill is expected to employ 350.

[http://www.suwanneedemocrat.com/news/article_6129a7be-3436-11e4-9d10-0019bb2963f4.html]

SFI Recognized by Green Building Standard BREEAM

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) has been recognized by BREEAM for its ability to allow the construction industry to responsibly source forest products. The announcement was made by BREEAM on September 12th.

BREEAM - the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method - is the world's foremost environmental assessment method and rating system for buildings. Worldwide, there are more than a quarter of a million buildings with certified BREEAM assessment ratings and over a million registered for assessment.

"We are extremely pleased to be recognized by BREEAM. The responsible sourcing of materials is an increasingly important element of sustainable construction. It includes resource stewardship, corporate responsibility and sustainable procurement issues throughout the supply chain from landowners to brand owners," said Kathy Abusow, SFI Inc. President and CEO.

BREEAM's recognition of SFI joins the growing list of standards and organizations that continue to recognize the merits of all forest certification programs. Organizations like the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, The Sustainability Consortium, GreenBlue and the National Association of State Foresters; and green building tools like the International Green Construction Code, Built Green Canada, and the ANSI accredited Green Building Initiative's Green Globes standard.

Alan Yates, the Technical Director of Sustainability at BRE Global - an independent, third-party approvals organization that oversees BREEAM said, "Our approach provides a way of comparing the rigour and robustness of the various responsible sourcing standards against a single common set of criteria. SFI meets a common set of requirements based on current best practice,"

BREEAM also recognizes the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). In 2005, the SFI program was endorsed by PEFC. This endorsement adds international value to SFI Inc.'s position as a highly respected, third-party certification program in North America.

Forest certification standards like SFI can serve as an important proof point for responsible forestry and wood sourcing. Wood's inherent sustainability as a natural and renewable resource makes it an excellent environmental choice for any new construction or renovation. But many of wood's positive attributes depend in large part on whether the forest resource is renewed. The SFI Standard offers a proof point that the forest has been managed for multiple environmental, social and economic values - today and tomorrow. [SCFC State Forests were certified to SFI and American Tree Farm Standards in 2013.]

Natural Gas Pipeline Safety

When plowing firebreaks or fighting wildfires across the state, our employees have to deal with many hazards, one of which is natural gas pipelines. Here is some information on the pipelines regarding safety.

According to federal statistics, natural gas pipelines are the safest and most environmentally friendly form of energy transportation in use today. Pipelines are inspected and tested regularly and monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They operate in accordance with all state and federal regulations.

South Carolina has over 24,000 miles of gas pipelines located along roadways, on private property and in rights-of-way in South Carolina. The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), within the U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), has overall regulatory responsibility for hazardous liquid and gas pipelines under its jurisdiction in the United States.

The pipelines are distinguished with colored markers (mostly yellow or orange but there is no designated color by law) at regular intervals along the pipeline corridors. The markers are visible where pipelines cross roadways and streams. Markers may not identify the exact location of the pipeline and the absence of marker does not mean that a pipeline doesn't exist. Always call 811 before digging.



Signs of a Gas Leak

Natural gas is non-toxic, colorless, odorless and lighter than air. An odor is added to help you detect a potential gas leak. Signs include:

- A rotten egg odor.
- Discolored or dead vegetation over or near the pipeline.
- A hissing, whistling or roaring sound near a gas appliance or pipeline.
- Dirt or debris being blown into the air.
- Persistent bubbles in streams, ponds or wet areas.
- Flames (if a leak has ignited).

If a Leak Occurs

- Leave the area immediately and warn others to stay away.
- From a safe place, call **911**, then call SCE&G at 1-800-815-0083.

What NOT to Do If You Suspect a Leak

- Do not try to turn natural gas valves on or off.
- Do not use any electric switch; this could cause a spark and ignite the gas.
- Do not use your telephone, cell phone, garage door opener or flashlight.
- Do not smoke, use a lighter or strike a match.
- Do not start or stop nearby vehicles, machinery, or other things that may spark.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

State laws require that you call 811 at least three full working days before and wait for technicians to

(Continued from page 20)

mark the location of all utility lines on your property, at no cost to you. If you accidentally hit the pipeline, call 1-800-815-0083 immediately.

If a pipeline is located on or near your property:

- It is illegal to tamper with or remove pipeline markers.
- Permanent structures such as storage buildings, sheds or swimming pools, or bodies of water may not be built within the right-of-way.
- Trees may not be planted within the right-of-way.
- Changing the ground elevation by either adding or removing soil from the right-of-way is not permitted.



Visit www.sceg.com/gassafety for more information.

Please call 1-800-815-0083 if you have a gas pipeline emergency. To view a list of pipelines visit the National Pipeline Mapping System's website: www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov or for South Carolina pipeline information, visit: <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/StatePages/SouthCarolina.htm>.

Upcoming Events

October 6-10, 2014	Wood Magic at the Harbison State Forest in Columbia
October 8, 2014	CPFM Certified Prescribed Fire Manager in Columbia
October 22, 2014	CPFM Certified Prescribed Fire Manager in Florence
November 13, 2014	CPFM Certified Prescribed Fire Manager in Walterboro
November 18-21, 2014	Wood Magic at Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center in Georgetown
January 7, 2015	CPFM Certified Prescribed Fire Manager in Columbia

Employee News

Marion Gibbs will be retiring from his position as forestry technician with the Coastal Region-Santee Unit effective October 1, 2014. We wish Marion a great retirement!

Retiree News

If you have any news on retirees, please send it to me at mjohnson@scfc.gov. We'd love to hear how they are doing.

Fire Weather Outlook



Fuel Conditions

By October, elevated risk will only affect southern and central California, and just southern California in November and December. These areas are not likely to experience significant and sudden changes in fuels state but rather a gradual decline as days shorten and temperatures cool.

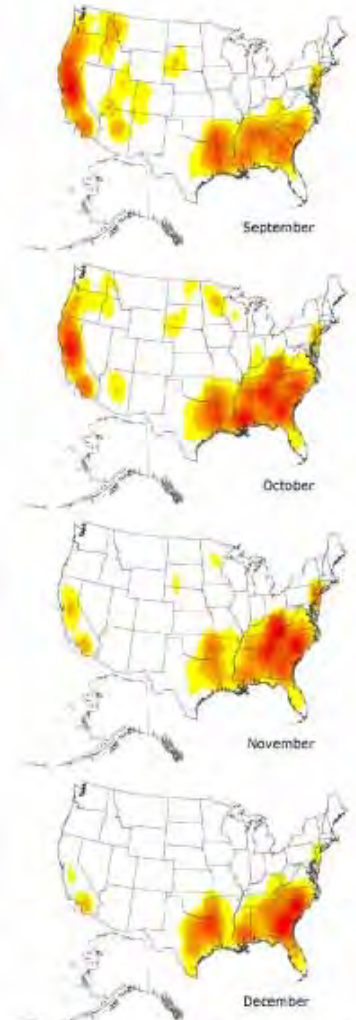
Fine fuels in the western Great Basin and the Northwest are expected to remain somewhat dry over Nevada, eastern Oregon, eastern Washington, and far western Idaho. These fuels will be able to overcome some of the precipitation that has occurred and at any point after a short drying period they will be able to carry fire, especially with any wind events.

East of the Mississippi River fuels conditions are of little concern as the fall fire season approaches. Summer moisture has left very little drought and fuel moistures are generally high. As the fall progresses leaf drop will occur and there will likely be short periods of fire activity. These should also not be significant time or resource commitments.

Fire Season Timing

Though fire season continues across the majority of the West Coast states fire activity has slowed early and abruptly for areas inland of the Cascades and Sierra. Fine fuel areas could still see occasional fires but heavy fuel and higher elevation areas where the most significant fire activity tends to occur this time of year will see little concern from new or existing fires.

Expect a later and slower start to the fall fire season east of the Mississippi River. Fuels conditions are generally moist and little drought is present meaning the antecedent conditions needed to have exceptional activity aren't in place. Leaf drop will still occur at some point and provide a short term increase in fire activity, but this should be normal to below normal and not lead to an increased commitment of resources.



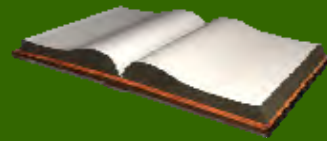
Normal fire season progression across the contiguous U.S. and Alaska shown by monthly fire density (number of fires per unit area). Fire size and fire severity cannot be inferred from this data. (Based on 1999-2010 FPA Data)

Current Fire Numbers for South Carolina

MONTH and YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS 5 AND 10 YEAR AVERAGE

Time Period	SEPT		JULY-SEPT		FISCAL YEAR	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
5 Year Average	123	311.0	322	1,652.0	2,109	13,566.2
10 Year Average	120	351.0	342	1,609.7	2,458	16,656.8
Current FY ¹	30	82.8	215	1,010.1	215	1,010.1

¹To date for current fiscal year



The History Corner

NOW AND THEN

In this series, I will be comparing old and recent photos of areas around the agency and state. Our state has changed tremendously since most of us were born, and the agency has changed since it was created in 1927. Enjoy the changes!

LAW ENFORCEMENT IN-SERVICE TRAINING

The Forestry Commission law enforcement program started back in 1961 when all key fire control personnel were commissioned by the Governor as law enforcement officers. The agency now has an intensive cooperative training and assistance program with the State Law Enforcement Division and the Criminal Justice Academy (CJA) to enforce the state's fire and forest laws.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission currently has 38 law enforcement officers who assume the



Law enforcement training held at Manchester in November of 2012.

primary responsibility for statewide forest fire law enforcement. Commission officers have statewide jurisdiction and full power of arrest and all are armed with .40 caliber Glock semi-automatic pistols. Every officer is required to qualify with the weapon twice each year.

SCFC law enforcement officers have "in-service" training two times a year when they have a day of training and shooting. (In the fall, officers shoot during daytime and nighttime hours.) During the firearm recertification, at least two certified fire arms instructors are on the firing range with the officers when they qualify to keep their commission. The Forestry Commission has five certified fire arms instructors: Tommy Mills, Kip Terry, Jarrod Brucke, Ron Holt, and Steve Ward. In addition to in-service training, officers have to participate in several online training updates offered through CJA throughout the year.



South Carolina Forestry Commission
Employee—Weekly News Bulletin



Law enforcement training in the late 1960's.

PO Box 21707
Columbia, SC 29221
5500 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
Phone: 803-896-8800
Fax: 803-798-8097
E-mail: scfc@scfc.gov
Editor: Michelle Johnson



Log on:
www.trees.sc.gov

Tree Country

October 23, 2014

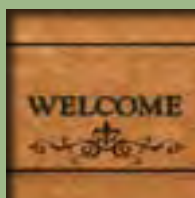


the employee
newsletter of the
South Carolina
Forestry Commission



from the desk of
STATE FORESTER
Gene Kodama

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



New employees
page 2



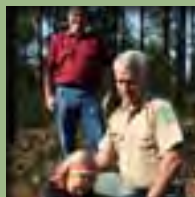
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SCFC photo shoot
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Kudos & fun stuff
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page 13

I'm excited to be writing today in our redesigned employee bulletin, *Tree Country*. The bulletin we have been preparing for several years had grown to a size that was difficult to manage due to our efforts to communicate with both Commission employees and the public in one document.

We had strived to use just one document due to our limited staffing capacity to provide content and prepare the publication.

So, now to better serve both audiences, we will continue to prepare a bi-weekly employee bulletin and add a publication designed primarily for the public. Of course, there will be some overlap, but by separating the two, we will be able to focus our messages on their primary readers. This change should also enable us to better serve and focus on our most valuable resource, our employees. I hope you enjoy the new format; please let us know what you think.

As happens each year in the fall, we are fully in what I call "Meeting Season," with meeting obligations occurring at a rapid pace all over the state and around the country. But last week we had a particularly important meeting. That meeting was our annual presentation of the next fiscal year's budget (FY 2015-2016) to the governor's staff to kick off the budget process. Governor Haley and her staff have been outstanding partners with our forestry community and the Commission, and our budget proposal was again well received. Of course, our budget proposal must

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be considered along with almost 100 other agency and departmental funding requests and be balanced against available state funds.

In this year's budget proposal, we continued to request additional firefighting capacity to reach our goal of 160 manned dozers and additional funding to accelerate the replacement of old equipment and open-cab dozers. With improved funding during the past few years by the Governor and the General Assembly, the Commission has been making progress toward meeting its manned dozer goal and is now at 151 manned dozers or within 6 percent of the goal. And, with funding received over the last three years, the agency will have replaced approximately 50 dozers with enclosed cab dozers by the end of FY 2014-15.

Since significant progress has been made in improving firefighting capacity, we began to request restoration of funding for developing the forest resource in this budget proposal. Commission focus and funding needs to be balanced between our two-pronged mission

of both protecting and developing the resource. To begin restoration of resource development funding, we are asking for state funding to 1) cover the required matches of federal funding for Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) and for Best Management Practices (BMPs); 2) restore nursery and tree improvement staffing, replace equipment, and rejoin the NC Tree Improvement Cooperative; 3) rehire an Information Technology Specialist to meet cyber security requirements; and 4) regain capacity to provide forest management services to landowners who need help with their forest assets and to increase timber production that is needed to retain and grow the forest industry and its jobs.

So, we are making two operational adjustments this fall, one with our Tree Country bulletin and one with our budget request focus. Both of these changes are being made to better serve our Commission team and our customers, the citizens of South Carolina.

Best regards,

Gene

Did you know...?

“Ever since the “paperless office” was first mooted in a Business Week article back in 1975, its estimated time of arrival has always been 10 years away. And so it remains. The amount of paper used in homes and offices has declined slightly over the past decade. And certainly an increasing number of organizations have managed to go paperless to some extent, and proselytize about the virtues of consigning desktop clutter to the bin. Even so, the average person in America still uses 700 pounds of paper products a year.”

...the average American uses 700 lbs. of paper products a year

—from *The Economist* (Sept. 29, 2014)

Welcome our newest team members!

Help us welcome two new dispatchers who started Oct. 2 at the Coastal Dispatch Center.



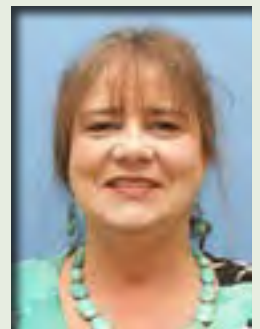
Sherry Thompson

Sherry Thompson is from Bamberg and has an Associate's Degree in Business from Denmark Technical

College. She has more than 20 years' experience in dispatch for Bamberg County. Sherry is married, has two sons and enjoys traveling.

Mary Wilson Ehrhardt has 28 years' experience with ocean transportation and logistics. She previously worked as the assistant terminal manager at the Port of Charleston's North Charleston and Wando terminals from which she retired.

Mary grew up on Edisto Island and loves to cook. She also enjoys yard work, antique shopping and doing home



Mary Wilson

improvements on her home built in 1880. She loves being back in a small town in the country.

Welcome to the Forestry Commission!

WOOD

MAGIC

The second of three Wood Magic Forest Fairs was held Oct. 6-10 at Harbison State Forest in Columbia. About 607 fourth-graders from 35 classes were introduced to the “magic” of the forest with the Gifts of the Forest, Board Cuttin’, Good Fire/Bad Fire and Makin’ Paper stations, and the magic show.

Counting the students, teachers,

chaperones and volunteers, nearly 900 people were a part of the Harbison event this year. A hearty thank you goes out to everyone who participated as an instructor, guide or volunteer. Without volunteers, this program could not be possible.

The next Wood Magic will be held at Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center in Georgetown Nov. 18-21.

FOREST FAIR



Jonathan Calore explains how plywood gets its strength at the Board Cuttin’ station.



Volunteers demonstrate how paper is made.



Russell Hubright displays his talent for prestidigitation during the magic show.



Programs

Programs

Air Operations

by Sam Anderson

SCFC pilots test proficiency

All South Carolina Forestry Commission pilots must undergo a pilot proficiency check annually. Chief Pilot Sam Anderson rides with every pilot for a minimum of one hour and also conducts an hour of on-the-ground training.

Some of the maneuvers the pilots must demonstrate are maximum performance takeoffs and landings, slow flight at minimum controllable airspeed, stalls, steep turns, ground reference maneuvers, emergency procedures and forced landings. At the completion of the proficiency check, each pilot will have met the requirements of FAR 61.56(a) (Flight Review) and the SCFC Air Operations Manual.



Jimmy Tobias maneuvers at minimum controllable airspeed.



Steve Bogan heads for the runway during a simulated engine failure.

Encourage pine health survey participation

Researchers with the D.B. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia will be mailing a survey to South Carolina landowners to assess their knowledge of pine health issues in the next few weeks.

Please encourage landowners you

talk to and work with to complete this important survey. The responses from the survey will help the South Carolina Forestry Commission expand and improve its landowner education efforts. All answers will be kept confidential.

Forest Health

by Laurie Reid

Programs

Programs

Oak Creek Plantation named Firewise Community USA

Because of its efforts to reduce the vulnerability of homes and landscapes to wildfire, Oak Creek Plantation in Spartanburg County recently earned Firewise Communities/USA® recognition from the National Firewise Communities Program.

It is the 23rd neighborhood in South Carolina to be recognized as a Firewise Community/USA community.

Oak Creek Plantation worked with the South Carolina Forestry Commission and the Glendale Fire Department to conduct a wildfire hazard assessment and address safety concerns. Residents then worked together to implement the plan.

Led by Caroline Phillips and her team of homeowners association volunteers, the neighbors worked diligently to reduce wildfire risks by not only removing vegetative debris and underbrush in green spaces, but also holding clean up/chipping days to clear debris from residents' yards.

Oak Creek Plantation residents also:

- Conducted vegetation and fuel mitigation within and around the community's perimeter;
- Worked with local fire and forestry agencies to remove flammable vegetation from around their homes and other neighborhood structures;
- Held special events to distribute Firewise information.

"Achieving Firewise recognition is not a quick or easy process. Oak Creek Plantation has done an outstanding job of creating a local Firewise Task



Jon Barker, Bill Wiley and Steve Moore present the Firewise recognition to Caroline Phillips, Jack Noullet and Michele Noullet of Oak Creek Plantation.

Force and implementing Firewise principles," said Michele Steinberg, support manager of the Firewise Communities program. "By preparing homes, structures and landscapes before a wildfire occurs, Oak Creek Plantation has dramatically increased the chance that homes and structures will be protected when a wildfire occurs."

The Firewise Communities/USA® program is a nationwide initiative that recognizes communities for taking action to protect people and properties from the risk of fire in the wildland/urban interface.

Communities interested in earning recognition may visit www.firewise.org/usa for more information.

Firewise
by Bill Wiley and Steve Moore

Step into the spotlight

We're looking to shine the light on

{ your name here }

or someone you know who would be a good person to interview for our new *Employee Spotlight* section



Employee Spotlight

We want to feature our team members throughout the agency who are the faces of the Commission in their respective areas.

We'll do a brief interview – in person or on the phone – to learn about our employees' jobs, their hobbies, their

families and even their lives outside of work. Let us hear from you.

Send your recommendations to Doug Wood at dwood@scfc.gov, and we'll do everything we can to feature you or someone you know in a future issue of *Tree Country*.

SCFC partners with NRCS for EQIP assistance

The Forestry Commission recently signed a contribution agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that provides compensation to the agency for our assistance with a Farm Bill program.

Effective October 2, 2014, NRCS will reimburse SCFC for management plans and compliance checks that our personnel carry out related to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Through this agreement, agency foresters will write management plans for private forestland owners, helping them re-establish trees on cutover areas and improve the growth of existing stands of trees.

They will also perform compliance

checks on work such as site preparation and tree planting to make sure that this work meets program standards. Some of the benefits expected from this agreement include:

- better survival and growth of planted trees than without SCFC involvement;
- more efficient use of federal cost-share funds;

- “one-stop shopping” for landowners, many of whom already work with Forestry Commission personnel in managing their forestland;
- compensation for costs associated with this technical assistance;
- opportunity for our foresters to learn more about an important cost-share program, allowing them to share this information with their landowners.

Forest Management by Russell Hubright

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Fleet Manager Doug Mills kneels with his son, Ryan, as he plants a seedling at Harbison State Forest. Doug's father, Joe, who also worked at the Forestry Commission for 38 years, looks on in the background. Joe Mills retired as the Fire Protection Chief in 1999.

SCFC employees participate in photo shoot

Several foresters answered the Department of Communications' call for "models" earlier this month, recruiting their children and parents to participate in an agency photo shoot.

Doug Mills, Jonathan Calore and Brad Bramlett took part in the promotional event at Harbison State Forest in early October, which was to provide high-quality photographs for a TV commercial featuring the work of the Commission and for future marketing pieces produced by the agency.



Jonathan Calore and his daughter Caroline



Brad Bramlett with his daughter Savannah and father-in-law Dan Jordan

Programs

Programs

Educational workshops and tours raise forestry awareness

The South Carolina Forestry Commission and The Conservation Fund conducted four free workshops for elected officials and government employees (parks/recreation and public works leaders, school officials and maintenance professionals) to raise awareness of the benefits of their publicly owned forest lands.

The workshops provided an overview of forest management, the role of consulting foresters, other resource agencies and a site visit to see forest management in action. The workshops were held in Florence, Awendaw, Columbia and Greenwood during the first weeks of October.

The participants were introduced to the importance of the forest industry in South Carolina and how publicly owned lands, if managed properly, are economic assets for the community.

Clemson Extension and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources representatives presented portions of the workshops to the



Participants learn about longleaf pine restoration and the diversity of the longleaf ecosystem during a forestry tour of the Pee Dee Research Station near Florence.

groups about recreation, water quality and other aspects of forestland management.

The Conservation Fund representative, Jason Johnson, familiarized the participants with a few of the resources, such as easements, that are available to assist forest landowners.

SCFC employees Ron Holt, Mike Bozzo, Lowe Sharpe, Laurie Reid, Frances Waite and Lois Edwards assisted with the workshops, which were made possible by a grant from the US Forest Service.

Urban Forestry

by Lowe Sharpe



Laurie Reid explains insect and disease services offered by the SC Forestry Commission and answers questions related to invasive species.

South Carolina Prescribed Fire Council holds annual meeting



The SC Prescribed Fire Council held its annual meeting Sept. 24-25, giving a field tour of Jocassee Gorges to showcase the research and prescribed burning being conducted in the area.

The tour was intended for landowners, land managers, consultants and conservation organization staff who use prescribed fire to achieve resource management goals.

The first day of the annual meeting concluded with a social in Clemson, and the Council held its business meeting in Pendleton the following day.

SCFC Forest Protection Chief Darryl Jones is the vice chair (previously chair) of the Council.



Taking a lunch break on the field tour portion of the SC Prescribed Fire Council's annual meeting, attendees look out over beautiful Lake Jocassee.

SCFC personnel participate in Fire Prevention events around the state

West Florence

Forestry Commission personnel participated in the West Florence Fire Department Fire Safety Day Oct. 11.

Black River Supervisor Anthony Eaddy and technicians Eddie Freeman and George Martin were on hand with a new environmental cab dozer to explain how we fight wildfires, show how the equipment works and hand out fire prevention items. Sparky the Fire Dog® visited the personnel and loved the new equipment.

Sparky the Fire Dog® was created for National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in 1951 and has been the organization's official mascot and spokesdog ever since. He is a widely recognized fire safety icon that is beloved by children and adults alike.

Millions have learned about fire safety through educational lessons and materials featuring his image. Sparky visits schools and participates in community events to spread fire safety messages. For more information, visit www.sparky.org.



Sparky the Fire Dog® rides in a dozer.

Byrd Elementary

Edisto Unit Supervisor Andy Johnson and forestry technician Russell Hale participated in a Fire Safety event at Byrd Elementary School in Graniteville Oct. 10.

They explained to more than 150 students from 4K through second grade how the Forestry Commission fights wildfires with bulldozers that volunteer fire departments can't reach with their hoses. They also shared how the Forestry Commission's protective clothing is different from that worn by structural firefighters.



Byrd Elementary students look on as firefighters show off their equipment.

Fire Prevention by the SC Forestry Commission

National Forest Products Week

National Forest Products Week provides a great opportunity for forestry professionals and leaders across the country to write op-eds and get in front of civic groups, etc., in an effort to underscore the importance of our forest industry.

Help us celebrate NFPW 2014 by

taking the time to write your local newspaper, make comments on Facebook and Twitter, and contact your elected officials and spread the word. As forestry and forest industry professionals, the onus is on us to ensure that the public is made aware of this great resource.

Atta Boy

Brock McDaniel, horticulturalist with the City of Sumter, wrote us to thank SCFC employees for their expertise at the Municipal Tree Training Workshop Sept. 30 at Swan Lake-Iris Gardens:

The City of Sumter would like to thank all of you for your part [in] the successful Municipal Tree Training Workshop. Jimmy Walters is a wonderful educator; his information about the impact of trees on the community and environment instilled a new way of thinking in the minds of the tree workers in attendance. His demonstrations on risk identification and mitigation along with his proper cut demonstration will go a long way in helping ensure our urban tree canopy is a healthy and safe one for generations to come.

Lois Edwards and Lowe Sharpe were instrumental in making this event happen. Without their knowledge and expertise, this event would not have been able to come together as well as it did. Their influence helped bring in surrounding communities and universities in order to further strengthen our statewide urban forestry support system.

Caring for our urban forests is a community effort, and the City of Sumter would like to thank all of you again for your invaluable contributions to this event and our community.

*Thanks,
Brock McDaniel*

10-year service award



Pee Dee Region Supervisor Terry Cook, right, presents Black River Unit Technician Wayne Springs his 10-year certificate of service Oct. 1

Photo of the week "Tree Critter"



This photo was sent in from Pee Dee Dispatcher Dolly Crawford. She was walking in Santee and came across this interesting growth on a tree that looks like an animal. Laurie Reid thinks it is probably *Inonotus hispidus*, a fungus that is pretty common of water, willow and laurel oaks.

Send your wild, wacky, weird photos to Michelle Johnson at mjohnson@scfc.gov.

NOW AND THEN

The way we look, the way we do things and the equipment we use has changed tremendously since the agency's inception.

In this series, I'll be comparing old and recent photos of all things forestry-related in South Carolina: areas, equipment and people. Enjoy!

-Michelle Johnson
Public Information Coordinator

Pickup Trucks

Today, most SCFC supervisors drive a 4WD Ford F-350 with a winch in the front and a water/pump system in the back.

Trucks are outfitted with emergency lights and Motorola CDM 1550 radios with 128 channels. A shovel, rake, flap and

drip torch are some of the tools usually found on a truck.

Back in the 1950s, however, rangers drove 3/4-ton pickups with 4-speed transmissions. The trucks were equipped with fanbelt-driven pumps that could pump three to 20 gallons of water per minute at 90 pounds of pressure. They also had racks to carry six to eight backpack pumps and hand tools for a 15-man crew.



7 Security Habits Of Highly Effective PC Users

You might not think about it when you're browsing the web, shopping online and interacting on social media, but you are the first line of defense against cyber security risks.

The power to be safe is in your hands and at your fingertips. Developing and maintaining good habits can make online activity much safer and more enjoyable for you and your colleagues. The following good habits take only minutes to learn and are easy enough to incorporate into your daily work life.

Use public wi-fi safely

Public wi-fi is riskier than corporate or home wi-fi because you can't determine its setup and security features. So, take extra precautions when using it.

- Do not access sensitive personal accounts, such as financial accounts
- Ensure websites use HTTPS and display a lock icon
- Watch out for "shoulder surfing" from people and security cameras
- Never use a public computer, such as one in a hotel lobby, to access personal information
- Use only for general web browsing, e.g., weather forecasts and restaurant reviews

—from *HP Technology at Work*, part 6/7 (March 2014)

Career Opportunities at the South Carolina Forestry Commission

Job Title: Forester II

Closing Date: Oct. 27, 2014

Hiring Range: \$33,771-\$37,940

Location: Chesterfield County

Residency Requirements: This position is in Marlboro, Chesterfield and Lancaster Counties/surrounding areas.



Job Responsibilities

Recommends and promotes sound forestry management practices to landowners to include examination of woodland and preparation of complete forest management plans. Assists landowners in implementing recommendations. Conducts prescribed burns; responds to wildland fires; performs forest fire suppression duties; marks and estimates volume on any stand of timber requested. Provides technical assistance to specialized areas of forestry including best management practices, urban forestry and insect/disease surveys. Provides information to the public regarding state forest and forestry services.

Minimum And Additional Requirements

A bachelor's degree in forestry from a college or university accredited by the Society of American Foresters and one (1) year of forestry experience. Current SC Registered Forester or eligible within one year. Must pass a physical fitness test of walking two (2) miles in thirty (30) minutes carrying a 25 lb. pack. Must obtain firefighter registration with the SC State Fire Marshal's Office. A criminal background check is a condition of employment.

Job Title: Information Resource Consultant II

Closing Date: Nov. 1, 2014

Hiring Range: \$38,703 - \$71,608

Location: Richland County

Job Responsibilities

Directs and participates in the operation, support and data security of the local and wide area networks connecting the agency's servers and workstations statewide. Implements safeguards and security policies and procedures to protect confidential information and the agency's computer systems. Ensures that hardware and software functions properly, performs preventative maintenance, and arranges for repairs or replacements as needed. Manages and performs new hardware and software configuration, installation, setup and deployment to end users.

Minimum And Additional Requirements

A bachelor's degree and two (2) years work experience in information technology and computer network system design, installation, operation and repair. Related experience may be substituted for the bachelor's degree on a year-for-year basis.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 13, 2014

CPFM Certified Prescribed Fire Manager in Walterboro

Nov. 18-21, 2014

Wood Magic at Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center in Georgetown

Jan. 7, 2015

CPFM Certified Prescribed Fire Manager in Columbia

Employee News

- Blake Morris resigned his position as Forester II with Pee Dee Region/Lynches River Unit effective Oct. 3.
- Paul A. Williams II resigned his position as Forestry Technician I with Coastal Region/Santee Unit effective Oct. 1.

Time running out to make insurance/benefits changes

October 1-31, 2014 is the open enrollment for active state employees in South Carolina. Any changes you make during the month of October 2014 will be effective January 1, 2015.

Employees should review the *Insurance Advantage* newsletter to learn about all insurance options for 2015. Below highlights some of the changes that employees can make during the open enrollment period:

- **Health Insurance** – you may enroll in, change or drop health plans for yourself and/or your eligible family members.
- **Vision** – you may enroll in or drop vision coverage for yourself and/or your eligible family members.
- **Optional Life** – you may enroll in, increase, decrease or cancel your Optional Life Insurance coverage.
- **Dependent Life Spouse** – You cannot enroll your spouse in Dependent Life-Spouse coverage without medical evidence of good health. You can enroll your eligible child in Dependent Life-Child coverage. If your eligible family members are already enrolled in Dependent Life coverage, you may decrease or cancel the coverage.
- **MoneyPlu\$** – you can enroll in Flexible Spending Accounts. If you are currently enrolled in MoneyPlu\$ Medical Spending or Dependent Care, you must re-enroll to continue

accounts for 2015. TO re-enroll, visit www.myFBMC.com.

Employees with internet access can change their coverage using MyBenefits, the online enrollment system. Visit PEBA Insurance Benefits' website, www.eip.sc.gov and select MyBenefits from the left menu on the home page. First-time users must register for this service.

Those without computer access can enroll by completing a Notice of Election (NOE) form, which Benefits Administrator Allison Talbot can mail to you. Contact her at (803) 896-7059.

Or you can contact the Human Resources liaison in your regional office for assistance. NOE forms must be dated no later than Oct. 31, 2014.

Did you know...?

...the average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.

Become a State Museum member through payroll deduction

South Carolina state employees can now take advantage of payroll deduction to join the SC State Museum.

Employees who join before Nov. 21 are invited to Member Appreciation Night In The Planetarium Nov. 21 and the Polar Express Party Dec. 19.

Among other benefits, all levels of state museum membership afford unlimited free general admission to the museum for a year, free blockbuster



exhibit tickets and discounted planetarium and 4D theater tickets.

Please use the payroll deduction form attached to the e-mail containing this newsletter to join today.

For more information, call (803) 898-4937 or email membership@scmuseum.org.

Quote of the Week

The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate.

Oprah Winfrey

National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook from the Predictive Services National Interagency Fire Center

Outlook Period: October, November and December through January 2015

Executive Summary

The October, November and December 2014 through January 2015 significant wildland fire potential forecasts included in this outlook represent the cumulative forecasts of the eleven Geographic Area Predictive Services Units and the National Predictive Services Unit.

October

- Above normal fire potential continues across some portions of northern, central and southern California. Long term drought coupled with increasing potential for offshore winds will keep potential elevated through October.
- Below normal fire potential is expected for central Texas as well as the southern Atlantic Coast.
- Elsewhere normal fire potential is expected as many areas transition to out of season conditions for the winter.

November

- Above normal fire potential will be alleviated in the north, leaving central and southern California as the only areas with continuing threats from dry fuels coupled with offshore flow.
- Below normal fire potential will expand to include an area stretching from Texas to the Atlantic Coast.
- Most other areas are out of season during November.

December through January

- The last remaining areas of above normal potential in California will transition to normal during December, leaving only normal to below normal conditions.
- Below normal fire potential will continue from Texas to the Atlantic Coast.
- Most other areas are out of season December through January.



South Carolina Fire Activity

Month And Year To Date

Comparison to previous 5- and 10-year average

Time Period	OCT		JULY-OCT		FISCAL YEAR	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
5 Year Average	81	255.9	403	1,907.8	2,109	13,566.2
10 Year Average	91	247.3	433	1,857.0	2,458	16,656.8
Current FY ¹	16	65.2	231	1,075.3	231	1,075.3

¹To date for current fiscal year

in the news



Forest Protection Chief Darryl Jones was recently interviewed in a Charleston Post & Courier article about prescribed burning. The newspaper was also kind enough to allow SCFC to share this great photo that accompanied the article. The article can be found for a short time at: <http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141012/PC16/141019785>

photo credit: Paul Zoeller, *Charleston Post & Courier*

FBI Shreds 30 Million Paper Files in Shift to Digital

In its print-to-digital shift, the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be shredding 30 million print records and up to 83 million fingerprint cards that date back to the 1920s.

However, the FBI will hold on to paper records of the most notorious criminals such as Al Capone and John Dillinger. The problem with paper files began in the 1990s when the FBI had to build a campus in West Virginia to store all of its physical records. However, with the push to digitize, the records are immediately accessible to law enforcement across the country, which would reduce delays inherent in a paper files system, according to Penny Harker, who runs the Biometric Services Unit at the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division.

Waterproof Paper Offers Smudge-free Note-taking in Wet Conditions

Inspiration could strike anywhere, walking in the rain, perhaps even diving underwater, and especially in the shower, but there are few good ways to make a note under those wet conditions. Washington-based Rite in the Rain offers one solution in the form of its waterproof paper that consumers can buy as notebooks, printer paper and index cards, without worrying about smudged ink or short-circuiting digital screens. The paper doesn't just hold up in wet conditions but unlike plastic-coated paper, it is also recyclable thanks to a water-based coating process, according to the company website. Moreover, all printing inks for the products are soy-based, and its wood fibers are purchased from Forest Stewardship Council certified sources.

Print Innovation Could Lead to High-tech Paper Packaging

One day, our print newspapers might contain a live ticker feed for breaking news, and our cereal boxes might provide a screen to entertain us while we're eating breakfast – if an electronic company's innovation is any indication of what's to come. Austria-based Prelonic has developed a way to cheaply print electronic displays on paper and paperboard. While the company is in the early stages of developing this technology, its implications are intriguing. Generally, paper and paperboard is not an ideal surface for such an electrochromic display due to its rough, porous surface, but Prelonic was able to use standard screen-printing technology for the job. Prelonic CEO Friedrich

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in the news

continued

Eibensteiner said that this technology could even be used to print batteries on paper; however, the development for displays is farther along.

The Disappearing Hardwood Floor

Call it another victim of globalization. Our desire for ever-cheaper products has made the traditional heritage hardwood floor an endangered species.

When China came knocking a decade ago with its cheap labor, the big flooring factories slowly began outsourcing in order to stay competitive in the Big Box arena. Traditional hardwood flooring suffered, as the Chinese versions

arrived twisted, warped and cupped due to massive differences in humidity between China and North America. Much of these first arrival floors were not sell-able [sic] and ended up in auctions, throwing the reputation of solid wood floors “under the bus.”

The offshore solution was to engineer hardwood floors with adhesives, a plywood backer and a thin wood top sheet. This has been widely adopted as the new wood flooring. For those who want the real thing, though, solid three-quarter inch flooring with no glues can still be found – you just need to know where to look. Traditionally, solid wood floors came from trees that were milled locally into lumber, then dried and processed into flooring that was also warehoused

locally. The distance between forest and consumer used to be short and the wood was fresh, dry and quickly acclimatized to the consumer’s own home.

Real hardwood flooring is still made that same way, and it still supports local forestry, local jobs and local programs through taxes. Solid wood flooring is timeless in beauty, has a low carbon footprint and is 100 per cent natural. Yes, it’s more expensive than engineered flooring from China, but that cost is not prohibitive when you prorate it over the lifespan of the floor and consider the myriad of social and environmental benefits.

So the next time you’re thinking of putting in some real wood floors . . . think local!

Whatcha think?

Please let us know what you think about the redesign of *Tree Country*, which is now an employee-only publication. We’re as eager to hear critical comments as we are to learn what you like about the new look and new features. E-mail Doug Wood, Communications and Public Information Director, at dwood@scfc.gov to share your feedback.

And as always, we welcome your input in providing and improving content. Please send in your photos and information about events going on in your area (recognition ceremonies, important meetings, employee fun and especially fires) to Public Information Coordinator Michelle Johnson at mjohnson@scfc.gov.

