The Forestry Association’s leadership recently unveiled a packed Program of Work for 2017 with strategic planks emphasizing government affairs/policy advocacy and communications. The Program was approved at the Board’s organizational meeting held Jan. 25, Columbia, SC. Board Chairman W. McLeod “Mac” Rhodes, Charleston, SC, said: “We have developed a Program that does a great job of addressing all focus areas and membership segments. We’re also staying firmly focused on the Association’s VISION: Sustainable forests that provide social, economic, and environmental benefits.”

The complete Program of Work is included in this Carolina Forestry Journal.

**INDUSTRY NEWS**

- West Fraser is expanding Newberry County operations and investing $33 million in the expansion. Established in 1955, West Fraser produces lumber, laminated veneer lumber (LVL), medium-density fiberboard (MDF), plywood, pulp, newsprint and wood chips, as well as energy through several bioenergy initiatives. The company has grown into the largest lumber producer in North America, operating facilities throughout western Canada and the southern United States. West Fraser’s Newberry sawmill directly employs 155 workers. West Fraser also plans to install a log merchandiser designed to increase production by more than 37 percent. — Source: SC Dept. Of Commerce

**OUR NEW NAME**

Forestry Association of South Carolina

**OUR NEW ADDRESS**

4901 Broad River Road
Columbia, South Carolina
29212

**T IMBER L I N E**

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Editor’s note: this editorial was written by Patricia Layton, Susan Guynn, and Alberto Goetzl.

South Carolina is home to a thriving wood products industry. Its mills produce nearly one billion board feet of lumber and millions of square feet of panel products as well as other wood products. The majority of these carbon-sequestering products is used in house construction and home remodeling within and outside the state. Yet, a huge market potential for South Carolina’s wood producers is still largely untapped.

In South Carolina, over 600 commercial and other types of nonresidential projects are constructed annually. These buildings – office buildings, schools, hotels, shops, and other kinds of commercial structures – are the new frontier for innovative wood designs and products.

A closer look at the nonresidential building market in South Carolina reveals that the value ($4.9 billion) of new nonresidential building construction in the state is about the same as for residential construction ($5.4 billion). While wood frame construction dominates in home construction, only 12% of the floor area of nonresidential buildings is constructed using wood structural components.

Significantly, the vast majority of nonresidential buildings is low-to-mid-rise (six stories or less) and thus could utilize wood structural components in many, if not most, situations in a code-conforming way. In fact, the SC Building Code that governs building construction provides numerous opportunities to utilize wood products in nonresidential buildings. The code allows considerable flexibility in choosing building materials provided building designs meet rigorous life and fire safety requirements. The use of setbacks, fire-rated assemblies, and sprinklers, for example, enable wood building materials to be utilized in most types of buildings.

South Carolina has a robust forest products industry. It contributes $20 billion to the state’s economy and supports over 90,000 jobs. The state’s forests grow more wood each year than is harvested. However, a relatively small amount of wood products is used in the nonresidential building sector in South Carolina – the equivalent of 20 million board feet, which is only a small fraction of the volume of wood products produced in the state.

Expanding markets for wood products can contribute to the state’s economy and encourage forest landowners to keep forests sustainably productive and working.

The increasing emphasis on sustainability of materials and building design opens up new opportunities for wood use in nonresidential construction. As a renewable resource that sequesters carbon, wood has significant environmental advantages over competing materials. Using wood products serves to encourage ongoing forest management that contributes to cleaner water and enhanced biodiversity. Notwithstanding these and other benefits, the nonresidential building sector historically has not been a big user of wood.

Barriers to using more wood products appear to be rooted in unfamiliarity and outdated perceptions about performance of fire-rated and engineered wood assemblies. These can be overcome through education, technology transfer, demonstrating successful projects, and through the creativity of architects and design professionals who incorporate wood into their projects.

Clemson University has and will continue to host workshops in the state to bring together architects, engineers, building code officials, forest and wood product professionals, and others involved in using wood for building. A number of innovative projects emphasizing the state’s connections with trees will be highlighted along with information about building codes and requirements for state buildings. The acceptance, and in fact, enthusiasm for incorporating wood components in nonresidential building is clearly growing.

Today it is recognized that using forest products in buildings supports the economy of our state, the health of our woodlands, and enhances the environment for the future. Think about it. Support sustainably produced building products that contribute to the livelihoods and quality of life in our state. Ask For Wood in buildings.

Contact Layton, Director of the WOOD UTILIZATION + DESIGN INSTITUTE, at playton@clemson.edu or 864-505-5904.
While in Washington, DC on Dec. 7, Forestry Association President & CEO Cam Crawford met with Congressman Tom Rice and discussed key legislative issues impacting Tree Farmers and forestry. Joining them was Pam Porter, wife of WestRock President Jim Porter.

“Over-regulation presents one of the greatest barriers to entry into markets and one of the greatest costs to businesses that are trying to stay competitive.”

-- President Donald Trump

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR. Donald Trump became the 45th President of the United States on January 20, 2017. Governor Nikki Haley gave her last State of the State address on January 11, 2017 before becoming the Ambassador to the United Nations on January 24. Henry McMaster became Governor upon Haley’s resignation. State Senator Kevin Bryant was elected Lt. Governor replacing McMaster. This creates a special election in State Senate District 3. Congressman Mick Mulvaney has been nominated to become the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and will be vacating his seat upon confirmation. This will lead to a special election in the 6th Congressional District. The United States Congress and the South Carolina General Assembly convened for the year in January.

Here are some of the important issues facing the forest industry in 2017.

State Issues

- HOUSE TAX POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE: Speaker of the House Jay Lucas appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to review the tax laws in South Carolina. The Committee has been meeting since August 30, 2016. There have been discussions about eliminating sales tax exemptions. Important sales tax exemptions for forestry are off-road fuel, replacement parts, and equipment and certain manufacturers' exemptions. Also, the Committee discussed taxing services. This could impact foresting foresters and others who provide services to the forest industry. The biggest potential threat is the loss of the agriculture use exemption which is so important to our timberland owners. A meeting was held on January 26, 2017 to review research on income, property and sales taxes. The Committee indicated it would introduce legislation with recommended reforms upon conclusion of its review of the tax system. The next meeting will be in March.

- DAM SAFETY AD HOC COMMITTEE: Speaker of the House Jay Lucas’ House Bill 4565, Dams and Reservoirs Safety Act, died in the House Agriculture Committee in 2016 due to concerns with the cost of implementation of the proposed regulatory scheme and the outrageous penalties in the bill. Speaker Lucas and DHEC continue to push for more oversight of dams.

In response, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Davey Hiott created a Dam Safety Ad Hoc Committee to study the issue. The Committee has been meeting since September 8 to discuss potential legislation to introduce in 2017 to regulate dams. DHEC proposed three amendments to the existing law regulating Dams and Ponds. On October 26, the Committee adopted two of those amendments. The first adopted proposal requires registration of all regulated dams which would include owners annually filing a dam maintenance check list with DHEC. The second adopted proposal revises the regulatory size exemption for dams to provide regulatory oversight of dams which pose a risk to infrastructure or property regardless of size. The third proposal by DHEC to require dam owners to hire a professional engineer to conduct an assessment every five years for high hazard dams and every ten years for significant hazard dams was rejected by the Committee. A dam assessment by a professional engineer costs up to $10,000.

Speaker of the House Jay Lucas, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Davey Hiott and Dam Ad Hoc Committee Chairman Steve Moss introduced House Bill 3218 to implement the Dam Ad Hoc Committee’s recommendations into law. In January, the House Agriculture Subcommittee adopted two amendments recommended by the Forestry Association to narrow the scope of dam owners’ responsibilities related to downstream residents and businesses. On January 25, the House Agriculture Committee supported H. 3218 as amended by a 16-0 vote.

In addition, Jimmy Sanders, Forestry Association Treasurer, has been appointed to the DHEC Dam Owners Advisory Committee which assists DHEC with regulations and policy recommendations regarding dams and ponds. The Advisory Committee met on January 27 and reviewed a draft emergency action plan template for dam owners. DHEC will host workshops across the state to help dam owners with filing emergency action plans. Also, DHEC committed to assisting dam owners with inundation maps and have developed an electronic permitting system for dam owners.

- FUNDING FOR RURAL ROADS: The business community will make another push for additional funding to improve our state’s roads. The Forestry Association is especially interested in rural roads which are primarily used to transport logs and chips to forest products manufacturers. Rural roads in South Carolina are in very poor condition and are considered the most deadly in the nation. House Majority Leader Gary Simrill introduced House Bill 3516 that would increase the gas tax by 2 cents a gallon annually for a five year period and increases certain other fees which will result in $600 million in additional funding for the state’s roads. Senator Sean Bennett introduced Senate Bill 54 that increases the gas tax by 3 cents a gallon annually for a four year period. The legislation provides $800 million annually for infrastructure improvements, coupled with a tax reduction of approximately $400 million through changes to individual income tax rates, manufacturing and business property taxes, and college tuition tax credits.

- PERMIT EXEMPTION FOR LOGGING EQUIPMENT: The Forestry Association and the SC Timber Producers Association are seeking to add forestry equipment to the 16 foot permitting exemption that agriculture already has when transporting equipment on state roads. Currently, forestry only has a 12 foot exemption. A Tigercat 630 E skiddder with dual tires is 16 feet in width so the permitting requirements need to be updated to accommodate the size of modern forestry equipment.

Discussions with SCDOT and the Senate Transportation Committee are taking place on this issue.

- PIPELINE EMINENT DOMAIN STUDY COMMITTEE: When the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 868 in 2016 which prohibits petroleum pipeline companies from having eminent domain authority until June 30, 2019, the General Assembly also established a study committee to review our state’s eminent domain laws relating to petroleum pipelines. Governor Haley appointed 2017 Forestry Association Chairman Mac Rhodes to the study committee. The study committee met on November 30 and heard testimony from numerous stakeholders. The study committee will continue to meet during the 2017 legislative session and make recommendations to the General Assembly no later than December 31, 2017.
Capitol Report, continued from page 3

- **FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENT:** The Forestry Association was successful in its efforts to get the General Assembly to adopt a budget proviso authorizing the State Treasurer to withhold state funds from counties requiring timberland owners to obtain a forest management plan when applying for an agricultural use exemption. A budget proviso is a temporary one year law so we are dealing with this issue again in 2017. The Forestry Association has requested that the House Ways and Means Committee renew the proviso in the 2017-2018 State Budget.

- **CONSERVATION BANK:** Senator Chip Campsen introduced Senate Bill 219 which stabilizes funding for the Conservation Bank and extends the Bank until 2028.

- **FOREST COMMISSION BUDGET:** The Forestry Commission's budget in January.

- **TEMPORARY TRUCK WEIGHT INCREASE:** The Executive Order issued by Governor Nikki Haley allowing log trucks to haul up to 90,000 pounds to assist the forest industry in recovering from Hurricane Matthew will expire on February 1, 2017.

**Federal Issues**

- **FEDERAL TIMBER TAXES:** The U.S. House of Representatives will consider reforming the tax code in 2017. The Forestry Association is seeking to protect the current tax laws so timberland owners will continue:
  - Receiving capital gains treatment for the harvest of timber or sales of standing trees.
  - Deducting the costs of forest management, including prevention measures (fire, pest and disease), thinning, fertilization, interest, taxes, protection of wetlands, and forestry activities.
  - Investing in timber Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), based on the IRS determination that timber is real property under the REIT rules; and
  - Deducting up to $10,000 of reforestation costs per stand, with the remainder written off over 7 years.

- **NEW PRESIDENTIAL PRIORITIES:** President Donald Trump has indicated that he would like to repeal the Waters of the United States Rule, the Clean Power Plan, and eliminate the Estate Tax during his administration.

  Mr. Trump’s nomination of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator should help stop EPA’s over-regulation of industry. Also, President Trump expressed support for Farm Bill programs during his campaign. Hearings for the 2018 Farm Bill will start this year. Trump has nominated former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue as Secretary of Agriculture. Perdue was supportive of forestry when serving as governor of Georgia.

  There are some concerns regarding President Trump’s plans regarding trade issues such as NAFTA and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Trump has already withdrawn the U.S. from the Trans-Pacific Partnership and is seeking to renegotiate NAFTA with Canada and Mexico.

  The Trump position on H-2B guest worker program is unknown but Andrew Puzder, Secretary of Labor-designee has been supportive of Guestworker programs in the past.

This Capitol Report was prepared by Forestry Association President & CEO Cam Crawford, Columbia, SC. Contact him at 803/798-4170 or ccrawford@scforestry.org.
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Throughout the legislative session, bill summaries will be included in the Capitol Report section of the Carolina Forestry Journal. Action Alerts will be sent to grassroots contacts on key bills as warranted.

In addition, the Forestry Association will actively lobby for issues that improve business climate, and oppose measures that negatively impact the business climate for forestry.

Priority FEDERAL Issues are maintaining current timber tax laws, repealing the Waters of the U.S. Rule, reforming the H-2B Program, repealing the estate tax, supporting increased truck weight limits, opposing the DOL overtime wage rule, protecting the independent contractor status for the wood supply chain, promoting the carbon neutrality of forest biomass, and promoting new markets for wood and paper products.

Priority STATE Issues are to support maintaining the current system of taxation of agricultural and forest lands based on use value, maintaining sales tax exemptions for the forest industry, opposing costly or burdensome regulations of dams and ponds, increasing infrastructure funding for rural roads, opposing private companies having eminent domain authority, supporting trucking liability reform, supporting funding for the Conservation Bank, promoting the use of SFI and ATFS certified wood in state buildings, and adding forestry to the 16 foot exemption for transporting equipment. Support funding for firefighting equipment and other programs benefiting the forest industry at the SC Forestry Commission, support increased funding for forestry programs and services at Clemson University, and support the Commissioner of Agriculture’s agribusiness initiatives advancing the forest industry.

The Forestry Association will support relief efforts for landowners, loggers, and industry that sustained damage during the October 2016 Hurricane.

FASC Will Continue Working With the Governor’s Office to ensure that pro-forestry commissioners are appointed to the SC Forestry Commission and confirmed by the SC Senate. We will continue working with the Governor’s Office to nominate non-forester members to serve on the State Board of Registration for Foresters, to appoint Forestry Association members to the Energy Independence and Sustainable Construction Advisory Committee, Petroleum Pipeline Study Committee, and other state boards, commissions and advisory committees that impact forestry.

FASC Will Work With DHEC to insure a Forestry Association member serves on the Dam Owners Advisory Committee.

FASC Will Continue Working With The US Forest Service to appoint Forestry Association members to serve on the Francis Marion-Sumter Resource Advisory Committee.

Priority LOCAL Issues are to defend the Right to Practice Forestry Act from encroachment by local government officials, oppose regulating or permitting of log trucks, and taking appropriate action against county governments requiring timberland owners to obtain forest management plans to qualify for agriculture use exemptions.

Grassroots: The Forestry Association will focus on maintaining and strengthening its grassroots network to advocate for the 2017 Program of Work. Emphasis will be placed on the continued development of an email database of the Forestry Association membership, the utilization of the SC Certified Tree Farm Committee and local county forestry associations in advocating for pro-forestry policies, and the active involvement of Officers and Board of Directors in the legislative and political process.

Legislative Event: The Forestry Association will host a legislative breakfast on January 25, 2017.

SC FORPAC: The SC Forestry Political Action Committee is an independent, nonpartisan organization of individuals and entities interested in the future welfare of SC forestry and state legislation affecting it. Fundraising goal is $50,000 per election cycle.

Strategic Alliances: The Forestry Association will work to increase the visibility of the forest industry with the South Carolina business community. Alliances will be maintained and developed with other business and professional associations including the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, Palmetto Agribusiness Council, South Carolina Alliance to Fix Our Roads, South Carolina Civil Justice Coalition, South Carolina Farm Bureau, the South Carolina Trucking Association, and TEAM Safe Trucking. The Forestry Association will work with national associations including the American Forest Foundation, American Forest & Paper Association, Forest Landowners Association, Forest Resources Association, and the National Alliance of Forest Owners on Federal issues impacting the forest industry. Maintain existing relationships with forestry related groups including the Association of Consulting Foresters-SC Chapter, Society of American Foresters, Foresters’ Council and SC Timber Producers Association.

AFFILIATES: The network of county forestry landowner associations will continue to receive current legislative and government affairs information, membership development aid, and other services. The Director of Landowner Outreach will be assigned to serve as a liaison with the county associations.

ANNUAL MEETING: The Forestry Association’s 49th Annual Meeting, scheduled on November 1-3, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency, Greenville, will feature a timely program, business meeting, recreation activities, exhibits, award presentations, and social events.

AWARDS: New nominations will be sought for the Distinguished Service Award and Outstanding Logger Award of qualified individuals and companies who have demonstrated excellence in forest management, research, education, public affairs, and logging. The deadline for submitting nominations for the Distinguished Service Award is June 30, 2017. The Forestry Association will continue to expand the scope of search for the Outstanding Logger by sending information to dealers and others
that work with the logging sector. On-site visits will be encouraged for the Outstanding Logger Award. The deadline for submitting nominations for the Outstanding Logger of the Year is March 31, 2017.

The Forestry Association will continue to co-sponsor the PLT Jerry L. Shrum Outstanding Educator of the Year Award and the SC Tree Farmer of the Year Award.

COMMUNICATIONS
The Forestry Association will implement its new brand strategy in 2017 with special emphasis on promoting its new name and being the voice of the $20 Billion Forest Industry.

External: Information is disseminated to help educate the public about the multiple benefits of good forest management. The Forestry Association provides resources and cooperates with other organizations to maximize results. Education about the positive economic impact of forestry in South Carolina will be a major priority in communications.

Internal: The Carolina Forestry Journal will continue to be published bi-monthly and the Carolina Forestry Magazine annually.

Website & Facebook: The Association’s website and Facebook page will continue to be used in communications with members, TOP program participants, and the public. The Facebook page and website’s information will be updated regularly.

Specialty Vehicle Plate: FASC will apply for a Forestry Association vehicle plate for members to purchase.

INSURANCE: Hunt lease liability insurance remains a valuable member service for timberland owners and hunting clubs. Promotion of the new Prescribed Burn Insurance Program will be a priority in 2017. The Board will renew the endorsement of the Davis-Garvin Agency’s group insurance program. It continues to provide a full range of coverage for the forest industry such as timberland liability, reforestation, and prescribed burning insurance.

LOG A LOAD FOR KIDS: Goal is to raise $100,000 for area children’s hospitals. Log A Load originated in South Carolina in 1988 to demonstrate logger commitment to community service. Several events will be held throughout the state to raise funds for Log A Load. Best management practices will be developed for volunteers raising and handling funds for the Log A Load For Kids program.

SFI STATE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE: The SFI State Implementation Committee provides oversight to implement the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® in South Carolina. Projects underway include the promotion of forestland certification and the distribution of the updated version of A Landowner’s Guide To Forestry In South Carolina which complies with the new SFI Standards.

TOP TRAINING: TOP (Timber Operations Professional) program classes and workshops will be scheduled and administered by the TOP Committee and TOP Director. A Forestry Association Board member appointed by the FASC Chairman will serve as TOP Committee Chairman. The training calendar will be posted on our website and in the Carolina Forestry Journal.

TREE FARM: The Forestry Association is one of three co-sponsors for the SC Certified Tree Farm program. Communications support includes development and release of various publications. The Forestry Association’s Annual Meeting serves as a forum to recognize the SC Tree Farmer of the Year and generate revenue through the Silent Auction. The annual Tree Farm Conference will again be held on opening day of annual meeting.

The Forestry Association will provide support for the SC Tree Farm Legislative Day in Columbia on March 2, 2017 and the National Tree Farm Leadership Conference in Greenville on February 22-24, 2017.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS: A new strategy needs to be developed for increasing participation in the Young Professionals and Landowners. The FASC Chairman will appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to make recommendations to improve participation in the Young Professionals and Landowners. Members of the 45-and-under leadership development group will be encouraged to participate in association activities including Foundation programs and attending the annual meeting.

SC FORESTRY FOUNDATION: Foundation support will continue for SC Project Learning Tree, SC Teachers’ Tour, and SC Wood Magic Forest Fair.

SCFF and the Forestry Association will take the lead role in the 2017 Teachers’ Tour.

A staff member will serve as the Teachers’ Tour Coordinator and co-instructor to assist teaching the South Carolina Teachers’ Tour: Teaching Sustainable Forestry through Environmental Education offered for graduate credit during the Teachers’ Tour.

Scholarships: Five scholarships will be awarded to deserving forestry students attending Clemson University and Horry-Georgetown Tech. A minimum of one scholarship will be awarded to a forestry student attending each institution. The scholarship awards will be announced in the spring of 2017.

Grants: Grants will be awarded to assist with projects that advance forestry education, research, and outreach.

FORESTRY EXHIBIT At The State Museum: The Forestry Association will work with the Society of American Foresters in drafting a Memorandum of Understanding regarding updating the Forestry Exhibit at the South Carolina State Museum. The Forestry Exhibit is more than 20 years old and in need of renovation.

MEMBERSHIP/VOLUNTEERISM: There will be a focus on increasing membership by identifying potential members across all membership categories. The Director of Landowner Outreach will focus on increasing the membership of timberland owners in the Forestry Association.

The Forestry Association’s Board of Directors met Jan. 25 at The Palmetto Club, Columbia, SC with Chairman W. McLeod Rhodes presiding. Among meeting highlights:

- Briefed on the Legislative Breakfast hosted by the Association [Jan. 25] in Columbia, SC.
- Approved the Forestry Association’s 2017 Program of Work and Budget.
- Received a report on initial plans of the Annual Meeting Committee chaired by Association Chairman-Elect Bart Sabine.
- Received information on the 2017 SC Forestry Foundation scholarship program. Deadline for applications is March 31. Information is available at www.scforestry.org.
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- Received information on the Association’s Awards program. The forms and additional information are included at www.scforestry.org.
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NEWS BRIEFS

NEWSMAKERS

- Forestry Association Chairman W. McLeod “Mac” Rhodes, President of McLeod Lumber Co., Inc., Charleston, SC, is a new Board member for the Forest History Society — a nonprofit educational institution located in Durham, NC. The Society is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and disseminating forest and conservation history.

- Rhodes is a past President and Director of Tri-County Forestry Association; a Director with Forest Landowners Association; a member of Clemson’s Wood Utilization + Design Institute Advisory Committee; Co-Chair for the Center for Heirs Property Preservation; a member of the Charleston County Agricultural Issues Advisory Committee; and past Chairman of Charleston County Forestry Board. He is a Registered Forester in South Carolina.

- Forestry Association President & CEO Cam Crawford has been appointed to the National Alliance of Forest Owners’ Board of Directors for a two-year term that began Jan. 1, 2017.

- Other Board members include: Craig Blair [Resource Management Service President & CEO], Doyle R. Simons [Weyerhaeuser President & CEO], Jerry Barag [CatchMark Timber Trust President & CEO], Michael Kelly [Forest Investment Associates’ Board Chairman], and Daniel P. Christensen [Hancock Natural Resource Group Australia CEO & Chairman, Hancock Timber Resource Group President, and Hancock Natural Resource Group, Inc. Board Chairman].

- NAFO’s Mission is to advance the economic and environmental benefits of privately-owned forests through targeted policy advocacy at the national level. The membership includes a broad cross section of forest owners representing a variety of business models including publicly traded companies, investment organizations, family businesses and partnerships as well as state, regional and national associations. NAFO members represent more than 80 million acres of forestland in 47 states.

- Eric W. Smith has been appointed as a SC Forestry Commissioner. His term runs through June 30, 2022.

- Smith, a former Forestry Association Board member, is Forest Certification Manager with KapStone® Charleston Kraft LLC, Charleston, SC. His service record includes: SC Foresters Council Board Member since 2011; SC Board of Registration for Foresters Board Member since 2011 and former Chairman; SC SFI Implementation Committee’s Logger Education Subcommittee Chairman since 2009; Timber Operations Professional (TOP) Committee member since 2009; SC Certified Tree Farm Committee’s Inspections Chairman since 2013; SC Tree Farm Committee State Chairman in 2009; and District 4 Chairman since 2006. He has been the SC Tree Farm’s Group Certification Lead Auditor, and both an Inspector Trainer and Qualified Tree Farm Inspector.

FOREST FOCUS/Newberry: The 2017 Forestry Focus will be hosted by Newberry County Forestry Association and Clemson Extension on Feb. 25 at the Newberry Piedmont Technical College Campus, 1922 Wilson Road, Newberry, SC from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Lunch is included in the registration fee of $10. There are continuing forestry education credit hours available (3.5 hours of cat 1 and 1 hour of cat 2). For additional information, or to sponsor, contact: Jeff Fellers at 864/427-6259 ext. 115 or fellers@clemson.edu.

Tax Tips: Forestry Association members who need another copy of the Tax Tips For Landowners article published in the Nov./Dec. 2016 Carolina Forestry Journal, can download it at www.scforestry.org. A copy can also be obtained by emailing scfa@scforestry.org. The article outlines information to keep in mind when preparing your federal income tax return for the 2016 tax year.

Holmes Endowment: The Charles E. Holmes Endowment was established in 2003 to provide scholarships for coaches and athletes in South Carolina to attend a Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) camp. Charles Holmes worked in the timber industry, served on the SC Forestry Association’s Board, and was committed to FCA. He accomplished much before his untimely death in an airplane accident. For additional information about the Endowment, or to contribute, visit www.fcaholmesendowment.com, or contact the SCFCA Office at 803/798-1142. You can also contact David Welch at 803/622-2689 (cell) or DWelch@fca.org.

In Memory

- Hugh McColl “Mac” Lupold, 79, of Camden, SC, died Dec. 4. He served as the Forestry Association’s 2008 Chairman and was actively involved in helping shape our organization from the early years. He was one of the Association’s first committee chairmen and headed up the Annual Meeting Committee in 1970. He received our Distinguished Service Award in 2004. His forestry career included working at Milliken Forest, Holly Hill Lumber Co., Federal, International Paper, and Lupold Consulting.

- Donald A. Brown, Sr., 78, of Newberry, died Dec. 18, 2016. Don retired from Georgia Pacific Corporation in 2000 following thirty-five years of employment. He was a former Board member of the South Carolina Forestry Association; a past board member of the Newberry Forestry Association; and was named the 1980 Outstanding Clemson Forestry Alumnus. Memorials are suggested to The Donnie Brown Fund, c/o of Central United Methodist Church, PO Box 67, Newberry, SC 29108 or to Boy Scout Troop 222, 2034 Trinity Church Rd, Newberry, SC 29108.

- Z. Dale Wright, 94, died Jan. 10, 2017 at Covenant Place. He was a retired Major with the US Air Force where he received the Purple Heart. Wright was our 1981 Forestry Association Chairman and our 1984 Distinguished Service Award recipient. He was credited with being the first person to start promoting the idea of building a Forestry Association headquarters. Planning for the Association building began in 1979. Wright chaired a study committee which pulled together construction figures and got Board approval. In May 1983 Wright’s dream became reality when SCFA moved into its new headquarters in Columbia. Wright retired in 1984 from Stone Container Corp. where he was wood procurement manager. During his employment at Stone, he initiated a logger certification program which focused on safety standards. He was also actively involved with the National Forest Products Association.

SC Forestry Commission Turns 90

During 2017, the South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) is celebrating nearly a century of forest protection, management and development. The SCFC is planning special events, contests, exhibits and much more throughout the year to commemorate the milestone. Additional information will soon be posted on the Forestry Commission’s website at http://trees.sc.gov.
Upcoming Board Meetings of the SC Board of Registration for Foresters are:

- **Feb. 9** 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  Synergy Business Park-Kingstree Bldg., Room 204
- **May 18** 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  Synergy Business Park-Kingstree Bldg., Room 204
- **Aug. 3** 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  Synergy Business Park-Kingstree Bldg., Room 204
- **Nov. 9** 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  Synergy Business Park-Kingstree Bldg., Room 204

The Synergy Business Park-Kingstree Building is located at 110 Centerview Dr., Columbia, SC.

Board members:
- Robert A. Drummond, [Chairman], Milliken Forestry Co., Columbia, SC
- J. Christian Hendricks, [Secretary], Hendricks & Co., Columbia, SC
- B. Frazier Baldwin, [Board Member], Resolute Forest Products, Catawba, SC
- Charles J. Maley, [Board Member], Three Tygers Forestry, Moore, SC
- William C. Moody, [Board Member], Lexington, SC
- William D. Sligh Jr., [Board Member], Jordan Lumber & Supply, Hartsville, SC

The Board’s website is located at:  www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Forestry.
TEACHERS’ TOUR

The SC Teachers’ Tour will be held June 19-23, 2017 [Monday - Friday] in Newberry and surrounding areas. It will provide participants with a look at the impact forests have on our state’s environment, economy, and quality of life. For additional information, contact Janet Steele at 803/798-4170 or janet@scforestry.org.

FORESTRY FOUNDATION Scholarships

The Forestry Foundation Scholarship is designed to recognize and encourage forestry students with high academic achievement and leadership potential. To qualify, candidates must be a native of South Carolina, maintain a 3.0 GPA or better, and be a second year student at Horry Georgetown Technical College (HGTC), or a junior/senior at Clemson University, majoring in Forest Management. Scholarships are awarded based on academic performance and financial need. The Forestry Foundation must receive application materials by March 31, 2017.

For more information, contact FASC Communications Director Frances Taylor at 803/798-4170 or scfa@scforestry.org.

The Forestry Foundation of South Carolina, established in 1980, serves as the education, conservation, and research arm of the Forestry Association.

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Wood Magic Forest Fair (WMFF) is a field day designed for fourth graders to learn about forest resources. More than 60 contributing organizations help make the Fair possible each year. Students participate in hands-on activities showing the benefits of forests for the environment and daily life. It’s a fun experience which allows students and teachers alike to gain new knowledge about forestry and forest products.

Volunteers are sought for events slated for this year:
- **Sept. 19-22** SC Botanical Garden (Clemson)
- **Oct. 16-20** Harbison State Forest (Columbia)
- **Nov. 14-17** Sewee Environmental Education Center (Awendaw)

To volunteer, contact: Janet Steele at 803/798-4170 or janet@scforestry.org or Matt Schnabel at mschabel@scfc.gov or 803/896-8892.

**SFI® Implementation Committee**

The SC SFI® Implementation Committee supports several groups and projects. These include: Forestry Focus (Newberry, SC), SC Certified Tree Farm Committee, SC Teachers’ Tour, SC Wood Magic Forest Fair, Forestry Focus, and the Woodland Clinic (Greenwood, SC).

One of the 2016 projects our Committee was involved with was the Clemson University Habitat for Humanity Build. Students used materials certified to SFI® on the Habitat for Humanity home.

For more information about South Carolina’s SFI® Implementation Committee, contact Guy Sabin at 803/798-4170 or gsabin@scforestry.org.

**Landowner Outreach**

Clemson Extension -- in partnership with the Forestry Association of SC (FASC) -- began a four-part series [titled “Let’s Talk Trees”] in Winnsboro on Jan. 17, 2017. Attendees heard from Janet Steele, FASC’s Director of Landowner Outreach, Forestry Education and Programs. She spoke about general forestry terms and management concepts and Ryan Bean with Clemson Extension, discussed setting objectives and using online tools.

If you are interested in this type of workshop, contact Janet Steele at 803/798-4170 or janet@scforestry.org or Ryan Bean at rbean@clemson.edu.

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Contact Forestry Association Communications Director Frances L. Taylor scfa@scforestry.org or 803/798-4170
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The South Carolina Certified Tree Farm Committee will host the 2017 NATIONAL TREE FARM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE in Greenville, SC, on Feb. 22-24, 2017.

The SC Certified Tree Farm Committee will host a Legislative Day on March 2, 2017 at the State House to increase awareness of Tree Farming and the importance of forestry. In addition to visiting one-on-one with their local lawmakers, Tree Farmers will be recognized by the House of Representatives and Senate.

The Palmetto Sportsmen’s Classic will be held March 24-26, Columbia, SC. For more information, visit psc@dnr.sc.gov or call 803/734-4008.

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SC ACF Meeting

The SC Association of Consulting Foresters will host a Practical Technology Workshop on April 27 at Harbison Environmental Education Center in Columbia. Topics will include practical, real world applications of the latest forestry technology including drones, log truck tracking systems and smart phone apps. The meeting is open to the public. Early registration (before April 13) is $80 and includes lunch and dinner. CFE’s will be assigned to the meeting. For more information, contact Pat Straka at pastraka@earthlink.net or 864/646-4859.

Lexington Forestry Assoc.

Lexington County Forestry Association has several programs slated for 2017. Each will be held at the Clemson Extension Office, 605 W. Main Street, Lexington, SC, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Meal will be included. To make reservations, call 803/359-8515, Ext. 111.
- Feb. 21 program on Food Plots. Speaker is Marion Barnes, County Extension Agent, Clemson University.
- March 21 program on Tall Timbers’ Carolina Regional Quail Project. Speaker is Reggie E. Thackston, a member of Tall Timbers Research, Inc. Board of Trustees.
- April 18 program on Herbicides. Speaker is Lew Merchant, Forestry Specialist with Helena Chemical Company.

Other Meetings Slated

- McCormick Co. Forestry Association will meet Feb. 6, 7:00 p.m., at the Lutheran Church By The Lake in McCormick. Ken Leach, Colombo Energy Inc., will discuss Colombo’s Greenwood mill operations and business goals. Contact Tom Brant at 864/852-2112, Ext. 115 or jbrant@clemson.edu.
- Abbeville Co. Forest Landowners Association will meet Feb. 20, 7:00 p.m., at the Abbeville Co. Agricultural Building. Jay Butfiloski, Furbearer & Alligator Program Coordinator, SC Dept. of Natural Resources, will discuss coyotes and their impact, control measures, and much more. Contact Tom Brant at 864/852-2112, Ext. 115 or jbrant@clemson.edu.
- Laurens Co. Forest Landowners Association will meet Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m., at the Farm Bureau Insurance office in Laurens. Tom Mason, Piedmont Forestry Consultants, Inc., will discuss why you should use a forester to manage your timberlands. Contact Tom Brant at 864/852-2112, Ext. 115 or jbrant@clemson.edu.
- Greenwood Co. Forestry Association will meet March 5, 6:30 p.m., at the Northwest Volunteer Fire Department in Greenwood. David Jenkins, Forest Health Program Coordinator, SC Forestry Commission, will discuss invasive forest pests and impacts of possible quarantines on moving wood. Contact Tom Brant at 864/852-2112, Ext. 115 or jbrant@clemson.edu.
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