

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SC's McPhail Named National Forest Landowner Of The Year

Columbia, SC -- Dr. Walt A. McPhail, Mauldin, SC is not bashful about Tree Farming. He's completely sold on it. He's helped establish several county landowner associations, played a key role in the Master Tree Farmer and Master Wildlifer Programs, and helped mentor countless individuals.

He was recently named **national Forest Landowner of the Year** by Forest Landowners Association and honored for his forestry expertise, deep commitment to land ownership and forestry, and his advocacy for forest landowner concerns.

Even though he runs McPhail Animal Hospital in Mauldin, SC, and was named South Carolina Veterinarian of the Year 2000, his passion for Tree Farming reigns. His interest began in 1958 when he was a senior in high school and president of Future Farmers of America. He was working on a forestry project that involved assisting his father who had purchased an abandoned cotton farm in Anderson, SC. They planted the cotton fields in pines.

That same year, McPhail took a job aptitude test that indicated he was best suited to be a forester. However, he pursued a degree in veterinary medicine, moved to Mauldin, SC and opened his practice in 1978.

He and his brother Bill began looking for opportunities to buy more land. In 1985, they purchased 340 acres in Belton, SC. In 1987, McPhail's father died and he and his brother took over the farm. They harvested the hardwoods, and replanted the tract with pine. McPhail began attending forest landowner meetings and learned everything he could about improving his timber and management practices.

His primary goal is to keep every acre productive. "I micromanage it. I walk every bit of it, mark every tree that comes out of it, and organize and manage all the timber sales," he says. "The property is about 80 percent loblolly pines and we do intensive forest management."

McPhail has also continued his service at the state and national levels. He is the SC Forestry Association's 43rd Chairman, a member of the National Operating Committee of the American Tree Farm Program, and active on the SC Tree Farm Committee. He was 2010 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Palmetto Patriot Award, 2004 national winner of the Outstanding Achievements in Sustainable Forestry Award, 2003 Southern Regional Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year, and 2003 recipient of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation's Conservation Award for Forest Conservation.