

SC Tree Farm News



A Special Publication of the South Carolina Tree Farm Committee July/August 2011

Program Marks Sixty-five Years Of Service



Lawmakers paused March 2 for the reading of a concurrent resolution saluting the SC Tree Farm Program and celebrating sixty-five years of Tree Farming in the Palmetto State.

South Carolina's Tree Farm Program proudly marks 65 years of service as it continues to assist landowners in making the most of their timberland via a network of dedicated volunteers.

The SC Tree Farm Committee brings foresters from industry, consultants, and government together with experienced Tree Farmers to plan and administer the Program.

It's part of the American Tree Farm System, a nationwide community of more than 73,000 individuals and families. They share a unique commitment to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, to conserve soil, provide recreation, and produce the wood that

Tree Farm Legislative Day

On March 2, the South Carolina Tree Farm legislative day included:

- Reading of a concurrent resolution saluting the SC Tree Farm Program and celebrating sixty-five years of Tree Farming in the Palmetto State.
- Recognition of 45 Tree Farm representatives by the General Assembly.
- Distribution of a forestry fact card and water bottle to legislators.
- Displaying a Tree Farm exhibit in the State House lobby.
- Conducting a news conference on the importance of Tree Farming.

America needs to grow.

"The Tree Farm System in South Carolina has a long tradition of working with individuals and families who share a desire for excellence in forest stewardship," said SC Tree Farm

Committee Chairman Denise Bonnette, York, SC.

Program sponsors are: SC Forestry Association, SC Forestry Commission, and Clemson Cooperative Extension Service.

Management Plans Must Be Updated

Beginning this year, every Certified Tree Farmer will have to meet the 2010-2015 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification. The 2010 Standards require landowners to address the following within their management plan: forest health, high conservation value forests, integrated pest management, invasive species, soil, special sites, threatened and endangered species, water, wood and fiber production.

The American Tree Farm System has developed a **management plan addendum** to help you document updates to your plan that address the required elements. After completing the addendum, attach it to your current plan.

Copies of the addendum are available at <http://www.treefarmssystem.org/standards-for-certification>.



Forest Landowners Association CEO Scott P. Jones (left) presents the Forest Landowner of the Year Award to Dr. Walt McPhail.

Annual SC Tree Farm Field Tour Slated For Oct. 1



The SC Tree Farm Committee will host the annual Field Tour and Awards Ceremony Oct. 1 at the Tree Farm of Dennis and Amanda Bauknight located in Dacusville, SC.

"We invite you to come visit, share, and see something different," says Dennis Bauknight, SC Tree Farmer of

the Year. "Our farm consists of planted pine, bottomland hardwood/pine mix, upland hardwood/pine mix and wildlife areas. My goals are basically the same as those of my father, L. M. "Frosty" Bauknight: profit potential, multiple use, education programs for youth and adults, wildlife and recreation, and stress relief."

Tour stops will include: mechanical timber stand improvement, hardwood management, managing ice damaged pine stands, water bar and road construction, and ford construction.

▶ The SC Tree Farm Committee will offer a children's program during the

Field Tour. Project Learning Tree (PLT) activities will be conducted for children ages 8-12 years old. Cost is \$5/child and includes lunch. PLT is an environmental education program designed for K-12.

- ▶ [Directions and the registration form are included on page 3.](#)
- ▶ For learn more, contact Roy Boyd, Tour Chairman, at 803/230-0143, rboyd@comporium.net.
- ▶ The Tour invitation containing more complete information will be mailed to Tree Farmers in September.
- ▶ The Bauknight's consulting forester is Dale Mayson of Easley, SC.

McPhail Honored

Forest Landowners Association presented Dr. Walt A. McPhail, Mauldin, SC with the Forest Landowner of the Year Award during its national Conference held June 8-10 at Williamsburg, VA. The award honored McPhail for his forestry expertise, deep commitment to land ownership and forestry, and his advocacy for forest landowner concerns.

McPhail is the SC Forestry Association's 43rd Chairman, a member of the National Operating Committee of the American Tree Farm Program, 2003 Southern Regional Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year, and 2010 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Palmetto Patriot Award.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Hello Tree Farmers! We're back with another growth ring on your trees and the first newsletter of 2011.

The SC Tree Farm Committee got the year started off by accomplishing two initiatives against our goals of growing the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) in SC and improving communications.

First, we held three inspector meetings across the state in an effort to reconnect with inspectors – the “heart and soul” of bringing Tree Farm to you, the forestland owner. From those meetings we gathered great feedback and are now developing initiatives to address issues and suggestions for improvement to the program in



South Carolina.

The second successful event was a legislative day in March. Tree Farmers, foresters/inspectors and SC Tree Farm Committee members joined in a meet-and-greet with legislators to thank them for their help and talk about some key issues we still need their help on. Thanks to Tom Patton with SC Forestry Commission for spearheading the event and to everyone who participated to make it a worthy endeavor.

On to what is happening now. The SC Tree Farm Committee has been busy with discussions aimed at bringing more “pow” to Tree Farm in South Carolina. Efforts are underway to focus on several critical areas which, quite frankly, are extremely important. One area is certified product. YOU, as owner of an ATFS certified Tree Farm, are growing your trees under a recognized forest certification program. Those of you

marketing timber can “wave the flag” to forest industry to indicate that your timber is certified. Industry is looking to add more certified fiber into their system. Therefore, we [SC Tree Farm Committee] are heightening efforts to communicate to you, to industry, and to other interested parties that we have certified forests right here...locally. **Make sure buyers know your wood is ATFS certified.**

■ For foresters interested in becoming an inspector, a training workshop will be held Aug. 25 in Georgetown. Contact: Mickey Rivers at 843/520-5618, Michelle.rivers@ipaper.com.

■ And for our Tree Farmers, congratulations are in order to two tree farmers in our state who have been selected District finalists for the Tree Farmer of the Year award. Charles Blackmon manages a tree farm in Laurens County which is in District 1. Wallace Wood's tree farm is located in McCormick County, District 4. Both gentlemen and their families are great examples of the importance tree farmers place on ac-

tively managing their properties well.

■ The annual Tree Farm tour is coming up! This year's tour will be held Oct. 1 at Dennis Bauknight's farm in Pickens County. Dennis is the 2011 SC Tree Farmer of the Year. Plan to attend. The program always has an interesting speaker, a delectable lunch, and provides a great opportunity to see how a fellow tree farmer is managing his forestlands.

Wonderful examples of things happening in and through SC Tree Farm follow in this newsletter. My hope is that you find this newsletter informative and that it leaves you with an expectation of greater benefit from being a member of the American Tree Farm System. The caveat, of course, is that we need your involvement to really make it superb. Let us hear from you.

Laura Denise Bonnette
SC Tree Farm Committee Chair
bonn0181@comporium.net

On The Road: The Tree Farm Tour

By: SCFA President Cam Crawford

On July 1, I had the pleasure of taking my first tour of a family owned tree farm with South Carolina Forestry Association Chairman Walt McPhail. He and I spent the day traveling the upstate visiting several tracts of his family Tree Farm.

The tour was very educational and Walt was generous with his time. We discussed many issues including the planting of trees, how an individual becomes a tree farmer, government regulations impacting landowners, costs involved with owning a tree farm, what kinds of products are made from soft and hard wood trees, and market value of various trees.

Walt also taught me the importance of active forest management and about using Best Management Practices such as Streamside Management Zones and Prescribed Burns.

We even found time to stop for lunch in Abbeville at the Dutch Oven for a meat and three dinner that hit the spot on a hot summer day.

The tree farm tour was so enjoyable that on July 4th Betsy (my wife) and I hiked five miles in Harbison State



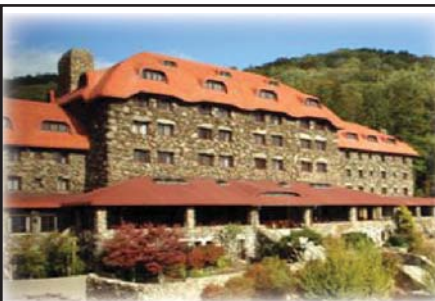
Forest, Columbia, SC including a walking tour of The Learning Trail. Once again I learned a lot. Betsy and I are already making plans for another hiking tour in the forest.

Since becoming president of the South Carolina Forestry Association, I have placed in my office a miniature white and green diamond shaped Tree Farm sign. The sign has the four sides that tell the story of sustainable forestry: Water, Wildlife, Recreation, and Wood. The Tree Farm sign serves as a daily reminder that our family forest landowners are the foundation of our forestlands and the forest products industry.

I am looking forward to working with South Carolina Tree Farm and its members in promoting forestry so we can continue to provide recreation, clean water, wood and paper products, and jobs for our state.



Crawford pauses beside Walt McPhail's Tree Farm sign.



Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC

Tree Farm Landowner Conference Planned

The Tree Farm Forest Owners Conference is slated for Nov. 2, Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC. Purpose is to inform natural resource professionals about how to realize the most from their timber investment. The program begins at 12:00 noon with lunch.

Speakers include:

- Kellee Melton, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Columbia, SC
- Dennis L. Bauknight, SC Tree Farmer of the Year, Easley, SC
- Peter J. Stewart, Forest2Market, Charlotte, NC
- Tim Adams, SC Forestry Commission, Columbia, SC

More complete information will be available in Sept. Questions may be directed to SCFA Chairman Walt McPhail 864/288-7618.



Edward R. Drayton, 2008 SC Tree Farmer of the Year, Hartsville, SC, discusses his forest management objectives during the SC Teachers' Tour held June 21-24 in the Pee Dee region. Drayton, a member of the SC Tree Farm Committee, has participated in several Teachers' Tours and Tree Farm Field Tours.

Inspector Training To Be Held In Aug.

SC Tree Farm's training for new Inspectors will be held August 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at International Paper's Palmetto Lakes Training Facility, Brave Drive, Georgetown, SC.

Classroom capacity is 40 participants. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch and materials. Please pre-register. The course qualifies for 4 CFEs.

For information and registration contact: Mickey Rivers at 843/520-5618, Michelle.rivers@ipaper.com. The SC Tree Farm website (www.sctfs.org) also has information about the course.

DISTRICT Tree Farmer WINNERS

District 1:

Charles Blackmon

Nominated By: Eric W. Smith, Forest Certification Manager, KapStone Charleston Kraft LLC, Kinards, SC

Charles Blackmon of Clinton, SC enjoys managing his 914 acre Tree Farm near Mountville in Laurens County -- an impressive property that's been in his family since 1900.

"Mr. Blackmon wants to make sure he's doing the right management activities to grow trees responsibly and profitably," says nominating forester Eric Smith. "Providing opportunities to enhance wildlife habitat and recreation are equally important. He researches options to make informed decisions and encourages other landowners to do the same."

The property has been a host site for the SC Dept. of Natural Resources' Mobility Impaired Deer Hunt program for the past five years. It's also been open for landowner tours and Boy Scout programs.

Blackmon has received several honors including Laurens County Tree Farmer of the Year Award, Dept. of Natural Resources Volunteer Award, and recognition as a Deputy Law Enforcement Officer.



District 4:

Wallace Wood

Nominated By: Eric W. Smith, Forest Certification Manager, KapStone Charleston Kraft LLC, Kinards, SC

Wallace Wood, Parksville, SC, is a familiar face in forestry circles. The retired Clemson Extension Agent is owner of Southern Land Solutions and Executive Director of the Upper Savannah Land Trust.

"Mr. Wood assisted in development of multiple county forestry associations during his career as an Extension Agent and has worked with many landowners to help them have productive Tree Farm properties," says nominating forester Eric Smith. "He continues to assist with forestry efforts and currently serves as Vice President of McCormick Co. Forestry Association. His own property is proof of what hard work and knowledge can do to create a healthy and productive Tree Farm."

He expanded the 32-acre farm which had been in his family since 1953, by purchasing an additional 175 acres in 2004. The property has been a certified Tree Farm since 1979.

Wood's honors include McCormick Co. Tree Farmer of the Year and Conservationist of the Year Award.



Field Tour, continued from page 1

Directions To Bauknight Tree Farm

From Anderson: Take Hwy. 178 toward Liberty. Follow Hwy. 178 approximately 17 miles. Turn right onto Hwy. 123 toward Greenville. Go 4.99 miles. Take ramp toward Easley (Hwy. 135). Turn left on S. Pendleton Street (Hwy. 135). Go 0.9 miles. Bear right to follow Hwy. 135 and go 512 feet. Turn left on Hwy. 135 and follow for approximately 7 miles to intersection of Hwy. 135/Hwy. 186 (Farmers Market store on right). Continue on Hwy. 135 for 0.6 miles. Turn left on Piney Creek Road (gravel) and go approximately 0.7 miles. The Tree Farm Sign will be on your right. Turn right at Tree Farm sign and follow woods road until you see the tent.

From Charleston: Take I-26 to Clinton. In Clinton, take I-385 to Greenville. In Greenville, I-385 bears right just past the Bi-Lo/Charter Center. Follow 183 approximately 13 miles, crossing Hwy. 25 and heading toward Pickens. Turn right at Hwy. 135 and go 3.3 miles to intersection of Hwy. 135 and Hwy. 186 (Farmers Market store on right). Continue on Hwy. 135 for approximately 0.6 miles. Turn left on Piney Creek Road (gravel) and go approximately 0.7 miles. The Tree Farm Sign will be on your right. Turn right at Tree Farm sign and follow woods road until you see the tent.

From Columbia: Take I-26 (west) towards Greenville. In Clinton, take I-385 to Greenville. In Greenville, I-385 bears right just past the Bi-Lo/Charter Center. Follow 183 approximately 13 miles, crossing Hwy. 25 and heading toward Pickens. Turn right at Hwy. 135 and go 3.3 miles to intersection of Hwy. 135 and Hwy. 186 (Farmers Market store on right). Continue on Hwy. 135 for approximately 0.6 miles. Turn left on Piney Creek Road (gravel) and go approximately 0.7 miles. The Tree Farm Sign will be on your right. Turn right at Tree Farm sign and follow woods road until you see the tent.

From Florence: Take I-20 (west) to Columbia. In Columbia, take I-26 (west) to Clinton. In Clinton, take I-385 to Greenville. In Greenville, I-385 bears right just past the Bi-Lo/Charter Center. Follow 183 for approximately 13 miles, crossing Hwy. 25 and heading toward Pickens. Turn right at Hwy. 135 and go 3.3 miles to intersection of Hwy. 135 and Hwy. 186 (Farmers Market store on right). Continue on Hwy. 135 for approximately 0.6 miles. Turn left on Piney Creek Road (gravel) and go approximately 0.7 miles. The Tree Farm Sign will be on your right. Turn right at Tree Farm sign and follow woods road until you see the tent.

From Greenville: From Bi-Lo/Charter Center mid-town, take Hwy. 183 W. for approximately 13 miles, crossing Hwy. 25 and heading toward Pickens. Turn right at Hwy. 135 and go 3.3 miles to intersection of Hwy. 135 and Hwy. 186 (Farmers Market store on right). Continue on Hwy. 135 for approximately 0.6 miles. Turn left on Piney Creek Road (gravel) and go approximately 0.7 miles. The Tree Farm Sign will be on your right. Turn right at Tree Farm sign and follow woods road until you see the tent.

Note: Tract is located approximately 0.6 miles north of Hwy. 135/Hwy. 186 intersection.

SC Tree Farmers Asked To Get Involved

By: Dr. Walt McPhail, Mauldin, SC. McPhail is an avid Tree Farmer and a member of the National Operating Committee of the American Tree Farm System.

The American Tree Farm's Outreach and Education Committee will concentrate on three primary areas during the next year or two. These focus areas are:

1. Increase visibility and capture Tree Farm Certified wood.
2. Update landowner management plans to 2010 Standards using the American Tree Farm System's management plan addendum available at <http://www.treefarmssystem.org/standards-for-certification>.
3. Collect email addresses for Certified Tree Farmers and update/correct addresses and contact information in the Tree Farm database.

We urge all South Carolina Tree Farmers to get involved and assist the SC Tree Farm Committee as these initiatives get underway. Have a question? Contact me at 864/288-7618.

Forest Steward: The Spring 2011 issue of *SC Forest Steward* newsletter is posted at www.clemson.edu/extension/forestry. The publication's co-editors -- Bob Franklin, Extension Forester for Colleton Co., and Tamara Cushing, Clemson University Extension Forestry Specialist -- are members of the SC Tree Farm Committee.

The Forest Stewardship Program is a free technical service program designed to encourage multiple resource management on private non-industrial forestlands. For more information, contact SC Forestry Commission Forest Stewardship Coordinator Scott Phillips at 803/896-8844.

Special Thanks to SC Tree Farm Committee members, inspectors, and volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure that SC continues to have one of the strongest state Tree Farm programs in the US. Thank you, too, to our Tree Farmers for the fine job they do. We appreciate you all. -- the Editor

October 1, 2011

SC Tree Farm FIELD TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name of guest(s) _____

Please check the appropriate box below:

I will attend the SC Tree Farm Field Tour & Awards Ceremony and eat lunch.

I will bring _____ guest(s). (Indicate number.)

I will eat lunch only.

I will bring _____ guest(s). (Indicate number.)

**Note: The program is limited to the first 125 registrants

Return this form with check, payable to SC Tree Farm Committee, (\$15 per person) before September 15, 2011 to:

SC Tree Farm Committee, ATTN: Scott Phillips, P O Box 21707, Columbia, SC 29221

2011 SC Tree Farm Committee Directory

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District 4 Chair -- Eric W. Smith

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843-383-7385, 843-601-2466

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Dr. Walt A. McPhail

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Johney L. Haralson

2004 SC Tree Farmer Of The Year
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johney.haralson.bwsi@statefarm.com

Edward R. Drayton

2008 SC Tree Farmer Of The Year
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200 Westover Drive, Hartsville, SC 29550
843-332-6123, ERD111@aol.com

Mark T. Jones

2009 SC Tree Farmer Of The Year
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864-220-1525, jonesmt@bellsouth.net

Dennis L. Bauknight

2010 SC Tree Farmer Of The Year
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Randell Ewing, Jr.

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843/858-1515, 843/857-9114

SC Tree Farm Districts

County	District		
Abbeville	4	Greenwood	4
Aiken	5	Hampton	12
Allendale	10	Horry	8
Anderson	1	Jasper	12
Bamberg	10	Kershaw	2
Barnwell	10	Lancaster	2
Beaufort	12	Laurens	1
Berkeley	11	Lee	6
Calhoun	10	Lexington	5
Charleston	11	Marion	8
Cherokee	3	Marlboro	8
Chester	2	McCormick	4
Chesterfield	7	Newberry	4
Clarendon	9	Oconee	1
Colleton	12	Orangeburg	10
Darlington	7	Pickens	1
Dillon	8	Richland	6
Dorchester	11	Saluda	5
Edgefield	5	Spartanburg	3
Fairfield	6	Sumter	6
Florence	8	Union	3
Georgetown	9	Williamsburg	9
Greenville	1	York	3

Former Regional Tree Farmers of the Year From SC

2007 Johney L. Haralson, Denmark, SC
2005 Dyches Family, Savannah, GA
2004 John & Mary Rebecca Spearman,
Lane, SC
2003 Dr. Walter A. McPhail, Mauldin, SC
2000 Dr. A. G. "Skeet" and Gail Burris
1996 Dr. A. G. "Skeet" and Gail Burris

Former SC Tree Farmer of the Year Winners

'80-'81 S. Guerry Stukes, Summerton, SC
'82-'83 Mary Julia Royall, Mt. Pleasant, SC
'83-'84 Rufus B. Lawrimore, Hemingway, SC
'84-'85 Iverson Brookes Lawton, Allendale, SC
'85-'86 John W. Kemp, Jr., Edgefield, SC
'86-'87 Charles W. Redfearn, Beaufort, SC
'87-'88 Carroll & Jane Brown, Colleton County
'88-'89 John Carter, Sharon, SC
'89-'90 James W. Hunt, Jr. Eastover, SC
'90-'91 Robert Cecil Gentry, Salem, SC
'91-'92 Tom Turner, Rock Hill, SC
'92-'93 Francis A. Snelgrove, Lexington, SC
'93-'94 W. R. "Roy" Watkins, Cassatt, SC
'94-'95 Dr. A. G. "Skeet" Burris, Beaufort, SC
'95-'96 Gordon E. Gale, Hardeeville, SC
'96-'97 William E. Eutsler, Cheraw, SC
'97-'98 Randell C. Ewing, Hartsville, SC
'98-'99 Deer Hill, Lane, SC
'99-'00 Fred Gantt, Columbia, SC
'00-'01 Dr. Walter A. McPhail, Mauldin, SC
'01-'02 Dyches Family, Savannah, GA
'02-'03 John M. McPhail, Abbeville, SC
'03-'04 Johney L. Haralson, Denmark, SC
'05-'06 Bookman Station, LLC, Columbia, SC
'06-'07 Ben Herlong, Saluda, SC
'07-'08 Edward R. Drayton, Hartsville, SC
'08-'09 Mark T. Jones, Greenville, SC
'10-'11 Dennis L. Bauknight, Easley, SC

Auction Items Sought

The SC Tree Farm Committee will hold its annual Silent Auction Nov. 2-3 at the SC Forestry Association's Annual Meeting, Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC. Auction proceeds support programs such as Master Tree Farmer, Tree Farm inspections, inspector training, landowner meetings, Prescribed Fire Council, and educational programs.

For more information, contact:

► Ken Leach, International Paper, Georgetown, SC, 843/520-5657 (W), 843/344-0400 (M), ken.leach@ipaper.com
► Jeff Brown, Forest Resource Professionals, Elgin, SC, 803/513-3340 (M), 803/438-1350 (W), jeff@forestresourcepro.com