



SC Tree Farm News

A special publication of the South Carolina Tree Farm Committee

Growing Trees And More Than Trees For The People of South Carolina April 2005

McPhail Wins National Stewardship Award

Dr. Walt A. McPhail, Mauldin, SC, has won the national BASF Forestry Products Outstanding



McPhail

Achievements in Sustainable Forestry Award for 2004. He was recognized for his work in spreading the practice of sustainable forestry.

The award was presented by the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) and BASF during the National Tree Farmer Convention at Fort Collins, CO.

"With good, effective management, you can make money, improve habitat, protect soil and water and leave the land better for the future," McPhail says.

He and wife Barbara own several tracts that total 776 acres. They have been actively manag-

ing their property since the first purchase in 1985. Their history is filled with activities, organizations, and projects dedicated to advancing sustainable forestry. This includes protecting fish and wildlife habitat, practicing soil and water conservation, and adhering to other Best Management Practices.

McPhail has helped broaden the reach of sustainable forestry via field tours, county landowner associations, Master Tree Farmer and Master Wildlifer Programs. He organized the Anderson County Forestry Association and Greenville Forestry and Wildlife Society, and is a landowner representative on the SC Tree Farm Committee.

The McPhails were ATFS's 2003 Southern Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.

Spearman's Win Regional Contest

John and Mary Rebecca Spearman, Jr., of Deer Hill, Inc., Lane, SC, were named 2004

Southern Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year by the American Tree Farm System®.



The Spearman's

John, a retired Army Colonel, and his wife, Mary Rebecca, were selected from Tree Farmers throughout the South. Having been actively involved in promoting Tree Farming in their community for years, the Spearman's Tree Farming history is filled with activities that advance the message of the Tree

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◆ Lists of SC Tree Farmers of the Year, regional and national winners, and more.

Brown Receives National Field Leadership Award

Jeff Brown, a past chairman of the SC Tree Farm Committee, received the 2005 Field Leadership Award at the National Leadership Conference, San Antonio, TX. He has served on the Committee for more than ten years and has been active with the Silent Auction -- a key fundraising event for projects such as the Master Tree Farmer Program, communications, and education.



Brown

Brown participated in the first Master Tree Farmer Program simulcast in South Carolina; helped lead the first Train the Trainer workshop at the SC Forestry Commission; was involved in the SC Teachers' Tour; conducted several sessions about Tree Farming at a local middle school's career day; has presented programs to youth groups and field day participants; and submitted articles to local papers.

Committee Elects Officers

John E. Spearman, Jr., Lane, SC, has been elected Chairman of the SC Tree Farm Committee. Michael S. Windhorn, Bowater, Inc., Catawba, SC, is Vice Chairman. Outgoing Chairman Scott Pllum, MeadWestvaco, Hampton, SC, was recognized Jan. 5 for his leadership of the Committee.

Tree Farm Field Tour Held

The South Carolina Tree Farm Committee's 2004 Field Tour was held Oct. 7 at Johney L. Haralson's Tree Farm, Denmark, SC. Over 150 attended.



Haralson

Tour stops included: CRP Thinning and Biomass Utilization; Pine Management and Herbicides; Beaver Control and Pond Management; Wildlife Management and Quail Preserve; and Site Preparation and Ice Damage Recovery.

The program, conducted prior to the afternoon Tour, was held at Clemson's Edisto Research and Education Center auditorium near Blackville, SC.

Featured speaker I. Brookes Lawton, Allendale, SC, described his experiences as a Tree Farmer and shared his view of Tree Farming's future. He was SC Tree Farmer of the Year in 1984-'85.

Rep. Thomas N. Rhoad (D-Bamberg, Barnwell, Orangeburg) presented Haralson with a House resolution honoring him as SC Tree Farmer of the Year.

SC Tree Farm Silent Auction Does Well

The SC Tree Farm Committee's Silent Auction proved a popular attraction and raised nearly \$9,000. It was conducted during the SC Forestry Association's Nov. 2004 Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Drawings were held for two items. The gas Kristline Grill4All tabletop grilling system, donated by Keenan Energy, Columbia, SC, was won by Fraser Almond, Lugoff, SC. The package hunt at River Bend Sportsman's Resort, Fingerville, SC, was won by Edward R. Drayton, Hartsville, SC.

Auction proceeds go towards committee projects such as the Master Tree Farmer Program.



Dyches Family In Regional Competition

The Dyches Family has been nominated for the Southern Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year competition. They were SC Tree Farmers of the Year 2001-2002, and SC District 12 Tree Farmers of the Year 2001. Donald E. Dyches, family spokesman, serves on the SC Forestry Association's Board and is a member of the SC Tree Farm Committee.



SC Tree Farmers: South Carolina's outstanding Tree Farmers who attended the SC Forestry Association's 2004 convention gathered for a snapshot. From left on the back row:

- ▶ Dr. Walter A. McPhail, Mauldin, SC, SC Tree Farmer of the Year (2000-'01), Regional Tree Farmer of the Year (2003), and National Outstanding Achievements in Sustainable Forestry Award winner (2004).
- ▶ Donald E. Dyches, Savannah, GA, spokesman for the Dyches Family -- SC Tree Farmers of the Year (2001-'02).
- ▶ Johney L. Haralson, Denmark, SC, SC Tree Farmer of the Year (2003-'04).
- ▶ Dr. A. G. "Skeet" Burris, Beaufort, SC, spokesman for the Burris Family -- National Tree Farmers of the Year (2000).
- ▶ C. Randell Ewing, Hartsville, SC, SC Tree Farmer of the Year (1997-'98).
- ▶ John Spearman, Lane, SC, SC Tree Farmer of the Year (1998-'89), and Regional Tree Farmer of the Year (2004).

Front row: Faye Dyches, Roxie Haralson, Gail Burris, Judy Barefoot, and Mary Rebecca Spearman.

Master Wildlifer Course Conducted

The Master Wildlifer course was broadcast live over satellite from Clemson University's studio and delivered to downlink sites across the country in seven, three-hour evening sessions Feb. 1-March 15, 2005.

The course was designed for landowners, land managers, and outdoor recreationists interested in including wildlife considerations into their current land management activities. Practicing land managers found the course valuable in highlighting alternative management approaches for wildlife in forest and farm settings. Special emphasis was placed on wildlife species (game species) that currently offer landowners additional sources of income through recreational access fees.

Topics included were: Introduction to Wildlife Management; Biology and Management of Small Game; Biology and Management of White-Tailed Deer; Ecology and Management of Eastern Wild Turkey; Fish Pond Management; Managing Wetlands for Waterfowl and Other Wildlife; and Income Opportunities from Wildlife on Private Lands.

Programs Recognized

Dr. George Kessler and Greg Yarow, professors in the Clemson University Dept. of Forestry, were recipients of the 2004 American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC) award for the Clemson Extension Master Tree Farmer/Master Wildlifer programs.

The award is given to programs that address the national priority of distance education and expand the availability of higher education to a wider and more diverse audience.

For additional information, visit www.mastertreefarmer.org or www.masterwildlifer.org.



Tree Farmer Nominations Sought

Each year the SC Tree Farm Committee conducts a contest to select the state's outstanding Tree Farmers. Nominations for this year's contest should be submitted by mid-May.

Any Tree Farmer in South Carolina is eligible to participate. Below is basic information about the contest.

Contest purpose is to:

- promote sustainable forest management on privately owned lands,
- recognize Tree Farmers who have done an outstanding job of managing their property, and
- educate the public about benefits of sustainable forest management.

Qualifications required:

- exceptional on-the-ground multiple use (timber, wildlife, protection of soil and water, aesthetics, and recreation) forest management,
- active involvement by the landowner in management of his/her land, and
- active in promoting forestry and the Tree Farm program in his/her community.

Benefits of participating:

- public recognition,
- the opportunity to meet other Tree Farmers, and
- the opportunity to enter regional and national competitions.

The individual selected as the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for the state, attends the South Carolina Forestry Association's (SCFA) Annual Meeting as a guest of the SC Tree Farm Program and SCFA.

The Association's 2005 Annual Meeting will be held Nov. 2-4 at the Crowne Plaza Resort, Hilton Head Island, SC. The Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year will be presented a plaque and chainsaw on Nov. 4.

How is the contest conducted?

The state is divided into Tree Farm districts and each one can nominate a candidate. A Tree Farmer can be nominated by either his/her inspecting forester, cooperating consulting forester, cooperating SC Forestry Commission forester, and/or Tree Farm Committee member.

Nomination forms for each district are submitted to the state committee which evaluates and selects three finalists. A committee visits each finalist and selects the most suitable Tree Farmer to represent the state. All district nominees are recognized for their accomplishments during an awards ceremony and field tour held on the property of the previous year's Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.

To participate, or nominate someone, contact:

John Spearman, Jr., Chairman
Deer Hill Inc.
Box 37
Lane, SC 29564
843-354-6647 (O)
843-387-5906 (H)
843-676-5500 (M)
Jes@wpmedia.com

Miles Knight, Secretary/Treasurer
SC Forestry Commission
P O Box 21707
Columbia, SC 29221
803/896-8844
mknight@forestry.state.sc.us

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Farm program.

The Spearman's own over 900 acres of Certified Tree Farm land. In 1989, Deer Hill was converted from row-crop to tree farming and has been actively managed using sustainable forestry practices ever since. Today, it is a thriving forestland and wildlife habitat, a survivor of Hurricane Hugo, and a celebrated Tree Farm, recognized as the district, state, and Regional Tree Farm of the Year.

Certified Tree Farmers own at least 10 acres of forestland and actively follow a forest management plan developed in partnership with an ATFS volunteer forester. The plan addresses forest sustainability, wildlife habitat, recreation, and water and soil conservation.

"Active management is essential for sustainability," says Bob Simpson, Vice President of the American Forest Foundation. "Family forest owners, like John and Mary Rebecca, actively manage their forests because they want to be examples of superior stewardship. By passing on the love of their land to their community they are improving the chances for America's forest resources to thrive for generations to come."

The Spearman's manage their Tree Farm with balance in mind. Their goal includes a management plan where efficient timber production coexists with a thriving wildlife population. While managing that balance they also have myriad other projects on the Tree Farm. They concentrate on pond management which includes fishing, monitoring seven duck boxes, and feeding the fish; they allow friends and family to hunt on their land but monitor and restrict the volume; and they demonstrate good conservation practices for visiting groups.

"We feel strongly that we are entrusted with the stewardship of land



John Spearman and Clemson Extension Forester Bob Franklin discuss longleaf on Deer Hill.



John and Mary Rebecca enjoy a walk through their Tree Farm.

for a short time, in relation to the impact we can have on that land," John says. "Long-range plans that incorporate all aspects of good stewardship practices are essential, as well as the detailed execution of those plans."

POWER for Wildlife Program Update

The POWER (Protecting Our Wildlife at Every Right-of-Way) for Wildlife program provides financial support for creating and maintaining habitat beneath electrical transmission lines that is beneficial for game animals such as deer, turkey, quail and rabbits, and for other wildlife such as songbirds.

Electric power companies and cooperatives in South Carolina provide funding for POWER for Wildlife. Grant recipients must agree to follow wildlife practices outlined in a management plan for at least five

years. If approved, the plan is developed by the landowner and specialists from the US Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, SC Dept. of Natural Resources, and other organizations.

Wildlife management practices include mechanical or chemical brush control, and permanent or annual wildlife plantings.

Since 1999, more than 300 applications have been approved and more than 1,800 acres enrolled in the program. Recipients may get up to \$1,000 during the five-year period.

For more information, contact your local NRCS or county Soil and Water Conservation District Office, a Resource Conservation and Development office or DNR's Small Game Project at 803/734-3609.

Timber Theft: Report It

Are you a victim of timber theft or fraud? If you suspect stolen timber, or wood diverted to an unauthorized mill, contact a SC Forestry Commission (SCFC) investigator. Call SCFC Law Enforcement at 1/803/896-8820.



About The Dyches Family's Bo Peep Logo

The logo for the Dyches Family's Bo Peep Plantation was designed in 2001 by Bill and Melissa Dyches in a collaborative effort with Atlanta graphic designer Lisa M. Humphreys. It includes a line drawing of a cabin the family built on the property.

Cabela's, a nationally known mail-order catalog, used the logo in their 2003 Fall issue in the section promoting their custom logo business.



Tour participants were given a firsthand look at how forests are protected, managed, and utilized.

Tree Farm Contributes To Teachers' Tour

The SC Tree Farm Committee made a \$1,000 contribution to the South Carolina Teachers' Tour held last year in the Pee Dee Region of Florence, Darlington, Chesterfield, and surrounding counties.

Twenty-five teachers from across South Carolina received the intensive training to prepare them to teach their students about the social, economic, and environmental benefits of sustainable forests.

The outdoor environmental education course provided participants with a firsthand look at sustainable forestry and its impact on the state's economy, environment, and quality of life.

Upcoming Meetings

■ **Aiken** County Forest Landowner Association will meet April 7 for a program on forest products and timber marketing. Speaker: Mel Hinson, MeadWestvaco. Call: 803/649-6297 to pre-register.

■ **Richland** County Forestry Association will meet April 28 for a hardwood management tour of the Red River Bottoms. Speaker: Eddie Drayton, Sonoco/retired. Call 803/865-1216.

■ **Newberry** County Forestry Association will meet May 10 for a tour of Beal Lumber Company. Call 803/276-1091.

■ A "Forest Products, Measurements and Inventory" program will be offered Saturday, May 21, 7:30 a.m., at Lehotsky Auditorium,

Clemson University, Clemson, SC. A field trip will be conducted in the afternoon.

The course is designed for private landowners and foresters who make operational decisions on southern pine management.

Registration is \$95 before May 2 and \$125 after May 2.

The program is sponsored by the Greenville Forestry and Wildlife Society, SC Forestry Commission, Clemson Extension, and the American Tree Farm System.

For additional information, contact: Dr. Walt McPhail at 864/288-7618.

■ **Lexington** County Forest Landowners Association will meet May 12 for a tour of Georgia-Pacific, Prosperity, SC. Call 803/359-8515.

Landowner Guide Available

A publication entitled "A Landowner's Guide to Forestry in South Carolina" can be downloaded by visiting the SC Forestry Association's website at www.scforestry.org. The guide includes information on developing a management plan, planning a timber harvest, formulating a timber sale agreement, and other topics.

Silent Auction Items Sought

Silent Auction items are sought for the Nov. 2-3, 2005 event at the Crowne Plaza Resort, Hilton Head Island, SC. Contact: Jeff Brown (Chairman), Forest Resource Professionals, LLC, Box 722, Elgin, SC 29045, 803/513-3340.

Newsmakers

■ Dr. Walt McPhail, Mauldin, SC, was featured in an article by Amanda Rudy in the Jan./Feb. 2005 issue of the national *Tree Farmer* magazine. Focus was on his work to promote the benefits of sustainable forestry.

■ John and Mary Rebecca Spearman, Lane, SC, were featured in an article by Kathleen Preece in the March/April 2005 issue of *Tree Farmer* magazine. The spotlight was

on them as 2004 Southern Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers. The feature included a side bar on their nominating forester C. Preston Fout, Sumter, SC, and his work with them on Deer Hill.

■ Tree Farmer Johny Haralson, Denmark, SC, addressed the Appalachian SAF meeting Jan. 28, 2005. Topic: "Our Family Forest Landowners".

■ Wayne Anthony was named Forest Management Assistance Program Outstanding Forester of the Year. He is SC Piedmont FMAP Manager with Georgia-Pacific, Prosperity, SC. Anthony has long been active on the South Carolina Tree Farm Committee and is a former chairman of the group.

Tree Farmer Convention Slated For Sept.

➤ The National Tree Farmer Convention will be held Sept. 22-25 in Springfield, MA.

Tree Farm Committee Meetings Scheduled

The SC Tree Farm Committee meeting schedule for 2005 is:

- ▶ June 1
- ▶ Sept. 7
- ▶ Dec. 7

All meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the SC Forestry Commission Headquarters, Columbia, SC.



The SC Forestry Association's Annual Meeting will be held Nov. 2-4, at the Crowne Plaza Resort, Hilton Head Island, SC.

Tree Farm: Sign Of Sustainable Forestry

Tending America's Forests

The American Tree Farm System is a nationwide community of individuals and families joined by their desire for excellence in forest stewardship. They share a unique commitment: to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, to conserve soil and provide recreation, and produce the wood America needs to grow.

Getting Started

Sound, sustainable forestry begins with determining your objectives: deciding what you have on your lands and developing a forest management plan that meets your needs. A professional forester can answer questions and help develop the plan.

To qualify for Tree Farm certification, woodlands must be:

- ten acres or more;
- under management, with a written and implemented plan that accounts for water quality, wildlife habitat, soil conservation, biodiversity, and recreational opportunities as well as production of forest products;
- protected from fire, insects, disease and destructive grazing;
- reforested after harvesting.

...and Tree Farmers must make good faith efforts to:

- protect special sites and consider forest aesthetics;
- dispose of slash in an environmentally sound manner;
- use chemicals prudently;
- contract with licensed and insured loggers and forest management contractors.

If you meet these criteria, a free inspection of your woodlands can be arranged through the SC Tree Farm Committee.

A Green Legacy

That's the sentiment that motivates Tree Farmers and volunteers. To qualify as a Tree Farmer, landowners generally manage at least ten acres of forest land. They must prepare a written plan that details management objectives and shows how they will provide for wildlife, recreation, water and soil conservation while producing timber. After their land is inspected by a forester, landowners are certified and earn the right to display the Tree Farm sign. Every five years thereafter, Tree Farms are reinspected to assure that landowners continue to meet the System's rigorous forestry certification criteria.

Roots of Sustainable Forestry

PRIDE: Tree Farmers receive a certificate and sign that marks their land as a place where excellent forestry is practiced. They share the satisfaction that comes from managing their land to the highest standards of good stewardship -- and knowing this commitment has been recognized by peers. Each year, Tree Farmers from around the U.S. compete for the honor of being named state, regional or national Tree Farmer of the Year.

PROFIT: Being a Tree Farmer often means you'll grow and harvest more timber, and earn more income than you might have thought possible. But along with the financial rewards will come healthier forests, cleaner water and better habitat for wildlife -- the other rewards that landowners seek from investing in sound, sustainable forestry.

PLEASURE: Many are drawn to Tree Farm because they enjoy being in the woods. Some look forward to the work of planting and tending. Others enjoy recreation or the natural beauty of their forest.

County Groups Offer Landowner Programs

Several county forestry/landowner associations are affiliates of the South Carolina Forestry Association (SCFA). They offer programs -- usually quarterly -- that are of special interest to woodland owners.

Below is a listing of groups that work with SCFA. To learn more about a county association near you -- or to join the South Carolina Forestry Association -- contact Guy Sabin or Sandy Jennings at 803/798-4170.

Abbeville County Forestry Association

Aiken County Forestry Association

Anderson County Forestry Association

Chester County Forestry Association

Clarendon County Forest Landowners Assoc.

Edgefield County Forestry Association

Greenville County Forestry and Wildlife Society

Greenwood County Forestry Association

Hampton County Forestry Land Owners and Wildlife Management Association

Jasper County Forestry and Wildlife Management Association

Kershaw County Forest Landowners Assoc.

Lexington County Forestry Association

McCormick County Forestry Association

Newberry County Forestry Association

Oconee County Forestry Association

Orangeburg-Calhoun Forest Landowners Association

Pickens County Forest Landowners Association

Richland County Forestry Association

Salkehatchie Forestry Association

Saluda County Forestry Association

Sumter County Forestry Landowners Assoc.

SC Tree Farm Committee Directory

John Spearman, Jr.
Chairman
Deer Hill Inc.
Box 37, Lane, SC 29564
843-355-6647 (O)
843-387-5906 (H)
843-676-5500 (M)
Jes@wpmedia.com

Mike Windhorn
Vice Chairman
Bowater
Box 7, Catawba, SC 29704
803-981-8099 (O)
803-981-8799 (FAX)
803-372-2830 (M)
Windhornms@bowater.com

Scott Pellum
Past Chairman
MeadWestvaco
Box 545, Hampton, SC 29924
803-943-3410 (O)
843-844-7102 (H)
CSP3@meadwestvaco.com

Wayne Anthony
Awards Chairman
Georgia-Pacific
Drawer 218
Prosperity, SC 29127
803-364-3470 (O)
803-924-4501 (M)
803-364-2832 (FAX)
Gwanthon@gapac.com

Miles Knight
Secretary/Treasurer
SC Forestry Commission
Box 21707
Columbia, SC 29212
803-896-8844 (O)
803-896-8899 (FAX)
mknight@forestry.state.sc.us

Bruce White
Awards Committee
White Oak Forest Mgt.
134 Main Street
Chester, SC 29706
803-385-2877 (O)
803-385-6572 (FAX)
803-374-0497 (M)
bwhiteoak@chestertel.com

Tom Patton
Publicity Chair
SC Forestry Commission
Box 21707
Columbia, SC 29212
803-896-8873 (O)
tpatton@forestry.state.sc.us

Ron Ferguson
Inspections Committee
SC Forestry Commission
39 General Henderson Rd.
Newberry, SC 29108
803-276-0205 (O)
rferguson@forestry.state.sc.us

Kirk Weyman
District 1 Chair
SC Forestry Commission
Box 1041, Anderson, SC 29622
864-225-9701 (O)
864-222-9485 (FAX)
Jweyman.scfc@Juno.com

Roy Boyd
District 3 Chair
SC Forestry Commission
13 S. Congress St.
York, SC 29745
803-684-4311 (O)
Rboyd@comporium.net

Jim Gunther
District 4 Chair
Georgia-Pacific
Drawer 218
Prosperity, SC 29127
803-364-3470 (O)
803-364-2832 (FAX)
803-924-2056 (M)
Jeg47@mindspring.com

Matt Morgan
District 5 Chair
International Paper
Forest Resources
Box B, Eastover, SC 29044
803-353-7475 (O)
803-331-6904 (M)
Matthew.morgan@ipaper.com

Jeff Brown
District 6 Chair
& Fund Raising Chair
Forest Resource Professionals
Box 722, Elgin, SC 29045
803-513-3340 (M)
803-408-1033 (H)
Forestpro@Bellsouth.net

David Nagel
District 7 Chair
Jordan Lumber & Supply
251 Second St. #6
Cheraw, SC 29520
843-921-1800 (O)
Nageld@mindspring.com

Steve Moore
District 8 Chair
SC Forestry Commission
113 Forestry Commission Dr.
Florence, SC 29501
843-662-5571 (O)
843-774-0424 (H)
843-992-9551 (M)
smoore@forestry.state.sc.us

George Chastain
District 9 Chair
Belle Baruch Foundation
22 Hobcaw Rd.
Georgetown, SC 29440
843-545-9853 (O)
843-545-7231 (FAX)
Chastain@sccoast.net

Dean Ilderton
District 10 Chair
MeadWestvaco
501 May St.
St. George, SC 29477
843-264-5216 (W)
843-563-2713 (H)
843-729-4197 (M)
KDI1@meadwestvaco.com

David Beard
District 11 Chair
International Paper
1515 Bourne St.
Georgetown, SC 29440
843-457-8873 (M)
David.Beard@paper.com

Dan Scheffing
MeadWestvaco
1226 Cooper Store Rd.
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
843-761-8326 Ext.21
843-761-1774 (FAX)
Daschef@meadwestvaco.com

Leslie J. Hawkins
SC Dept. of Natural Resources
Box 167
Columbia, SC 29202-0167
803-734-5534 (O)
803-734-6020 (FAX)
hawkinsL@dnr.sc.gov

Bob Franklin
Clemson Extension Rep.
& Tour Committee
Clemson Extension Service
Drawer 1086
Walterboro, SC 29488
843-549-2595 (O)
843-538-7487 (H)
843-549-2597 (FAX)
Rmfrnkl@clemson.edu

Dr. George Kessler
Clemson Extension Rep.
& Master Tree Farmer Chair
Clemson University
258 Lehotsky Hall
Clemson, SC 29634
864-656-4836 (O)
864-868-9487 (H)
864-656-4786 (FAX)
864-608-4040 (M)
Gksslr@clemson.edu

Frances L. Taylor
SC Forestry Association Rep.
& Publicity Committee
SC Forestry Association
Box 21303, Columbia, SC 29221
803-798-4170 (O)
803-798-2340 (FAX)
scfa@scforestry.org

Kirk Bell
Publicity Committee
Richardson, Bell, and McCloud
1073 Brookhaven Dr.
Aiken, SC 29803
803-648-4142 (O)
803-648-5016 (H)
803-646-6468 (M)
RBMinc4142@bellsouth.net

Dr. Walter A. McPhail
2001 TFOY
2 Jenkins Ct.
Mauldin, SC 29662
864-288-7618 (O)
864-288-7619 (FAX)
864-288-1443 (H)
Treevetsc@aol.com

Donald E. Dyches
2002 TFOY
Bo Peep Plantation
32 E. Montgomery Crossroad
Savannah, GA 31406
912-927-9777 (O)
912-927-9693 (FAX)
dychesconstr@msn.com

John McPhail
2003 TFOY
Green Tree Plantations
108 Woodland Way
Abbeville, SC 29620
864-459-5303 (H)
JAMcPhail@yahoo.com

Johney Haralson
2004 TFOY
Double K Farms
Box 7, Denmark, SC 29042
803-793-3321 (O)
803-793-7028 (M)
803-793-3323 (FAX)
johney.haralson.bwsi@statefarm.com

Gordon Gale
1996 TFOY
Red Bluff Plantation
Rt. 1, Box 169
Hardeeville, SC 29927
843-784-6461 (H)
912-663-2776 (M)
Gegale5@aol.com

Former National Tree Farmers of the Year From SC

2000 Dr. A. G. "Skeet" and Gail Burris

Former Regional Tree Farmers of the Year From SC

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

Former SC Master Tree Farmer Service Award Recipients

'99-'00 William P. Cate, Eastover, SC
'00-'01 Dr. A. G. "Skeet" Burris, Beaufort, SC
'01-'02 Dr. Walter A. McPhail, Mauldin, SC
'03-'04 I. Brookes Lawton, Allendale, SC

ATTENTION

SC Tree Farm News Recipients

Newsletter Address Change/Duplicate Mailing Information

If you have an address change or are receiving duplicate mailings of *SC Tree Farm News*, notify:

Miles Knight
SC Forestry Commission
P O Box 21707
Columbia, SC 29221
803/896-8844

Some of you are receiving more than one copy of SC TREE FARM NEWS. Two systems are accessed for addresses. When we interface, sometimes there are duplicates. The SC Tree Farm Committee is working to correct the problem and regrets any inconvenience.

South Carolina Tree Farm Committee
c/o SC Forestry Association
P O Box 21303
Columbia, SC 29221-1303

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PERMIT
No. 1005

SC Tree Farm Officers

John Spearman, Chairman

Deer Hill, Inc.
Box 37, Lane, SC 29564
Bus. 843/355-6647
Jes@wpmedia.com

Mike Windhorn, Vice Chairman

Bowater
Box 7, Catawba, SC 29704
803-981-8099 (O)
803-981-8799 (FAX)
803-372-2830 (M)
Windhornms@bowater.com

Miles Knight, Secretary/Treasurer

SC Forestry Commission
Box 21707, Columbia, SC 29221
Bus. 803/896-8844
mknight@forestry.state.sc.us

Tree Farm Co-Sponsors

The SC Tree Farm Program was organized in 1946 as part of the American Tree Farm System.

Program co-sponsors:

- ▶ SC Forestry Association
- ▶ Clemson Cooperative Extension Service
- ▶ SC Forestry Commission