

SC Tree Farm

Field Tour & Awards Ceremony

2010 PROGRAM



September 25 , 2010

Bottomland Tree Farm of Mark T. Jones, SC Tree Farmer of the Year
Abbeville, SC

Message From The SC Tree Farm Committee Chair

Hello and welcome to the 2010 SC Tree Farm Committee's Annual Tree Farm Field Tour and Awards Ceremony. We thank Mark Jones, SC Tree Farmer of the Year, for hosting our tour. Mark, Tour Chairman Roy Boyd, and all others who

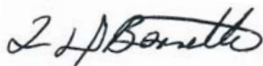


have graciously contributed their time and energy to this event, seek to fill your day with information and examples of good, sound forestry practices. Behind the practices are the reasons for implementing them. I'd venture to say that some of the more abstract motives -- such as "being a good steward of the land" -- are commitments that have grown since he became an owner of the forestland. Along with a feeling of pride in making something of the property comes the commitment to ensuring

it continues through appropriate management. The benefits are many – some emphatically stated within the written management plan he has for the Tree Farm – others only realized by Mark and his family, and us, as we spend time on the property enjoying it.

Enjoy your day. Learn from the educational topics and exhibitional stops along the tour. Find out what is being done, why, and how. For instance, Mark conducts much of the work himself but does he draw upon expertise in the field for guidance?

I hope you'll leave with an understanding, too, of why Mark made a decision to certify his tree farm to the American Tree Farm System. If you are not a member enjoying benefits from your participation and are interested in knowing more, please let us know. We believe in the goal of ATFS to promote sustainable management of forests with educational resources to private landowners. And, we definitely want to grow the program with individuals and families committed to the same goal for their properties.



SC Tree Farm Committee Chair

Laura Denise Bonnette, 484 Mason Dickson Rd., York, SC 29745, 803/230-8436 (C), bonn0181@comporium.net



Welcome From The Field Tour Chairman

The SC Tree Farm Committee is pleased to offer what promises to be one of our best Field Tours. Our program focuses on a variety of topics. We believe you will learn tips and techniques that can help you meet your management objectives more efficiently. Welcome!



Roy H. Boyd

Boyd is Project Forester with the SC Forestry Commission, Rock Hill, SC and is the SC Tree Farm Committee's District 3 Chairman. Contact him at 803/325-1926 or Rboyd@comporium.net.

Tour Committee

- ▶ **Chairman - Roy Boyd**, SC Forestry Commission, Rock Hill, SC
- ▶ **Edward R. Drayton**, 2008 SC Tree Farmer of the Year, Hartsville, SC
- ▶ **Mark Jones**, 2009 SC Tree Farmer of the Year, Piedmont, SC
- ▶ **Lynn Leclair**, SC Forestry Commission, Florence, SC
- ▶ **David Nagel**, American Forest Management, Bennettsville, SC
- ▶ **Eric Smith**, KapStone Charleston Kraft, LLC, Kinards, SC

SC Tree Farm Field Tour & Awards Ceremony

September 25, 2010, Bottomland Tree Farm, Abbeville, SC

PROGRAM

9:15 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. Welcome, Announcements, and Introductions

Denise Bonnette, Chair, SC Tree Farm Committee

Keynote Speaker

Mark T. Jones, SC Tree Farmer of the Year

**11:15 a.m. District Award Presentations and
Recognition of Nominating Foresters**

Eric W. Smith, Past Chairman, SC Tree Farm Committee

11:30 a.m. Lunch

Catered by We're Pigs Smokehouse Barbecue, Greenville, SC.
Will include: Low Country Boil, coleslaw, rolls, tea and lemonade.

Kids Menu: Hot dogs and potato chips.

12:30 p.m. Field Tour

3:30 p.m. End of program



JUST FOR KIDS: The SC Tree Farm Committee will offer a children's program during the Field Tour. Jerry Shrum, SC Project Learning Tree (PLT) Coordinator, along with others, will provide PLT activities for children ages 8-12 years. PLT is an environmental education program designed for K-12.

Welcome From The Tree Farmer

On behalf of myself, my wife Jean, and daughter Kayla, welcome to Bottomland Tree Farm -- our family forest.

I started out by leasing the property for hunting from the previous owner. Then in 1993, I was fortunate to purchase 175 acres when land prices were much lower than today. This property needed a lot of work due to extremely high stocking levels of loblolly pine resulting from natural regeneration.



After becoming a landowner and learning the benefits of tree farming, my tree farming interests equaled and then surpassed the wildlife interests. I was blessed to purchase other adjoining tracts in 1995, 1996, 2008 and 2010 totaling 425 acres. Being a landowner on a firefighter's income made me become a "hands on" tree farmer. On this tour, you'll learn how many forestry practices can be done by the landowner himself. I'll share what I've learned and discuss a few mistakes made along the way.

The property is approximately 60% natural regeneration and planted pine, 25% bottomland hardwood, 12% mixed upland hardwood/pine, and 3% in food plot production for wildlife.

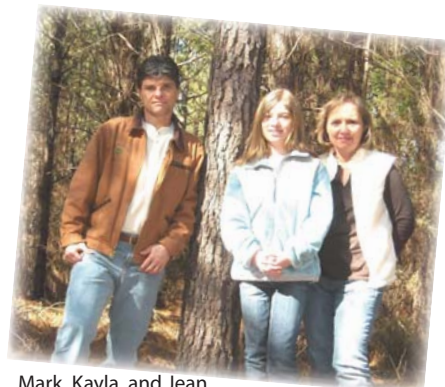
Being a steward of a piece of God's creation is a responsibility and an honor to me, and I hope to pass that along to others.

My goals for Bottomland Tree Farm are: profitable timber production, enhanced wildlife habitat, and stewardship teaching opportunities for my daughter and other tree farmers.

Welcome!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Thomas Jones".

Mark T. Jones
SC Tree Farmer of the Year



Mark, Kayla, and Jean

TOUR STOPS

Stop 1: Loblolly Pine Natural Regeneration Management

Mark Jones, SC Tree Farmer of the Year, Abbeville, SC

This stop will focus on the effects of no management of overcrowded stands. Pros and cons of natural regeneration will be discussed.



Stop 2: Log Deck Management

Dr. Walt McPhail, 2003 Southern Regional Tree Farmer of the Year, Mauldin, SC

Learn more about how the landowner planned log deck use for the future by creating food plots, wildlife tree plots, and more.



Stop 3: Backpack Spray Release Program

Lew Merchant, Helena Chemical Co., West Columbia, SC

This stop will illustrate how the landowner uses prescribed fire followed by a backpack spray release using Arsenal AC (Imazapyr).

View a side-by-side comparison of prescription vs. no treatment.



Stop 4: Prescribed Burning

Robert Jones, SC Forestry Commission, Abbeville, SC

Learn more about prescribed burning, fuel loads, weather conditions required, and the Certified Prescribed Fire Manager Program.



Stop 5: Bottomland Hardwood Management

Edward R. Drayton, 2008 SC Tree Farmer of the Year, Hartsville, SC

This stop shows a bottomland hardwood stand the landowner has left to provide mast producing trees for wildlife. Management options will be discussed.



Step 1

Loblolly Pine Natural Regeneration Management

Natural regeneration has advantages and disadvantages. Rarely are the desired number of trees left. There may be too many, or not enough. In this case, the number was estimated at over 5,000 – 10,000 trees per acre. As the landowner, I elected to remove a large portion of trees via a pre-commercial thinning. I took on the task of pre-commercially thinning over 90 acres by myself. During this process I purposely left an “exclusion” of the heavily stocked area so I could see the results in future years if no management had been done.

The purpose of this stop is to show the effects of NO management of overcrowded stands. Pros and cons of natural regeneration will be discussed, and you’ll have a great view of management vs. no management as you see the “exclusion” left. I’ll also discuss lessons I’ve learned the hard way.

Speaker

Mark T. Jones is a Captain with the Greenville City Fire Dept., and a tree farmer. He has owned Bottomland Tree Farm since 1993. Objectives are timber production, enhanced wildlife habitat, and stewardship teaching opportunities. He likes to share with other landowners what can be accomplished at a cost savings if they do the work themselves. Contact information: 864/220-1525, jonesmt@bellsouth.net



Step 2

Log Deck Management

Proper log deck placement on a tract is crucial in planning for the current timber harvest as well as future harvests. The prudent landowner will plan for log deck use well into the final harvest. Many decks are prepared into food plots only to be destroyed with a future harvest, or to require additional crop tree area to prepare another deck.

On this stop you'll see how the landowner planned log deck use for the future by creating food plots, wildlife tree plots, and even using log deck slash to provide a more secluded feel for the food plot.

A well thought out log deck on the first thinning operation can be used throughout the stand rotation, as well as provide habitat enhancement objectives.

Speaker

Dr. Walt A. McPhail, Mauldin, SC, is Chairman-Elect of the SC Forestry Association, President of Greenville Co. Forestry and Wildlife Society, and serves on the American Tree Farm Program and SC Tree Farm Committee. He was 2001 SC Tree Farmer of the Year, 2003 Regional Tree Farmer of the Year, and received the 2001 Master Tree Farmer of the Year Service Award. Contact information: 864/288-7618, treevetsc@aol.com



Step 3

Backpack Spray Release Program

Most landowners are aware of the benefits of having a hardwood release performed on their pine stands. Undesirable hardwoods take up nutrients and water that could be used by the nearby crop trees, creating slower growth for the crop trees. Removing undesirable hardwoods also allows more sunlight to reach the forest floor enabling native grasses and forbs to reemerge, thus creating more available food for wildlife. The release provides a more open forest so hunters, bird watchers, and recreationists can “see the trees”. The open forest also allows the landowner or forester to have an easier job marking trees for future harvests.

On this stop you’ll see how the landowner uses prescribed fire first, followed by a backpack spray release using Arsenal AC (Imazapyr). There will be a side by side comparison of this prescription vs. no treatment. This can be done by any landowner at a vast cost savings in comparison to aerial treatment.

Speaker

Lew Merchant is a Forestry Specialist and has been with Helena Chemical Company for 13 years. In the forestry market, in addition to chemical/fertilizer distribution, Helena provides turnkey application services such as chemical site preparation, early release, and mid-rotation release on a per acre basis. It provides both aerial (helicopter) and ground (skidder & backpack) application services for herbicides and fertilization. Merchant graduated from Clemson University in 1995 with a major in Forest Resource Management and a minor in Environmental Science. Contact information: 252/916-3822, lewmerchant@bellsouth.net



Stop 4

Prescribed Burning

Natural fire has influenced southern forests for thousands of years and continues to do so today. When deliberately used to bring about desired results, it's called prescribed burning. Low intensity fires are used to reduce accumulation of combustible fuels on the forest floor, control hardwood understory competition, and improve wildlife habitat. Prescribed burning enhances horizontal diversity within a forest stand by stimulating growth of many forbs, grasses, and other herbaceous vegetation that provide valuable food and cover for wildlife. Studies have shown that prescribed burning serves as a fertilizing catalyst that releases nutrients otherwise bound-up in dead organic material on the forest floor.

This stop will discuss techniques of prescribed burning, fuel loads, desired weather conditions, pros and cons of burning, and the Certified Prescribed Fire Manager Program.

Speaker

Robert Jones, Abbeville, SC, has worked for the SC Forestry Commission since April 1985, primarily as a Forest Supervisor managing fire control personnel in multiple counties. His duties include fire suppression, assisting foresters in forest management activities and Southern Pine Beetle control work. Occasionally he travels to other parts of the state to respond to emergencies such as helping with hurricane aftermath and large fires. He's been on fire duty in other states including Idaho, Florida, Montana and Oregon. Contact information: 864/374-7111 or robertljones@embarqmail.com



Stop 5

Bottomland Hardwood Management

A bottomland hardwood forest is one of the most beautiful stands of timber a landowner can own. Many plant and animal species thrive there. Bottomland management should be well thought out before a timber operation is implemented. Professional advice should be sought before making a decision on whether or not to harvest.

On this stop you will see a bottomland hardwood stand the landowner has left intact. This area provides the majority of mast producing trees for wildlife on the tract. Hardwood management options will be discussed, including various aspects of hardwood thinning.

Speaker

Edward R. Drayton, 2008 SC Tree Farmer of the Year, Hartsville, SC, is a SC licensed professional forester with 47 years of riverbottom hardwood experience as an industry forester and tree farmer. His Cattails Tree Farm is his experimental forest and stop for all things bottomland hardwood and recreational. Contact information: 843/332-6123, ERD111@aol.com



SC Tree Farmer Of The Year

The Steward: **Mark T. Jones**



"My advice to other landowners is to become involved in the SC Forestry Association and county landowner associations, obtain a management plan, and get your land certified as a Tree Farm."

As Greenville, SC firefighter Mark T. Jones guides visitors through his Tree Farm in Abbeville County, he pauses to point out unique areas or describe management objectives.

Having performed most of the work on the property himself, he's proud of the transformation.

"I feel like I've been thinning ever since I bought my first property," he laughs before launching into the story of how it all began.

When he was younger, he leased land from timber companies for hunting deer and turkey. Then in 1993 he purchased 170 acres in Abbeville. "At first, wildlife was my primary goal, but I soon became more interested in the trees."

He contacted forestry professionals and other Tree Farmers for advice on how to take care of his new investment. Consensus: the land was severely overstocked and needed a precommercial thinning. He couldn't afford to hire a professional, so he tackled the job himself. It took him years.

"I don't make much on a firefighter's income, but can spend a lot of sweat equity," he says. "I call it Blue Collar Tree Farming which means being focused, diligent, and willing to do things yourself."

To chronicle tree growth, he brought his nine month old daughter Kayla to an area he'd hand planted and took a snapshot of her seated beside a pine. The top of her head and the pine top were almost the same height. In subsequent years, an annual snapshot recorded growth of Kayla and Kayla's Plantation.

To expand his knowledge of forest

management, Jones became active in Abbeville County Forestry Association, Greenville County Forestry and Wildlife Society, and the South Carolina Forestry Association.

Before long, he was teaching and helping others. He led field tours on his Tree Farm and delivered presentations on ways to stretch a shoestring budget. He became president of the Abbeville association and in 1997 received their Forest Farmer of the Year Award.

He became a Master Tree Farmer and Certified Prescribed Fire manager. "I was well trained in fire behavior and how to put out a fire but needed to learn how to correctly start one," he says. He emphasizes the importance of proper training when dealing with related issues such as smoke management.

He's added to his land holdings and now owns 382 acres certified as a Tree Farm.

His speaking schedule continues to expand though the core message remains the same. He assures attendees they too "can accomplish improvements on their property in the most cost-effective manner." Then he tells them how to use his Blue Collar Tree Farming principles.

The August 2009 issue of *South Carolina Tree Farm News* spotlighted him as District 4 Tree Farmer of the Year. His management objectives were outlined as: profitable timber production, wildlife habitat enhancement, and to provide a demonstration area of forestry practices for other landowners.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to take

excellent care of what God has blessed me with," he said. "I'm interested in encouraging others -- particularly young people -- to realize the benefits and joys of good forest management."

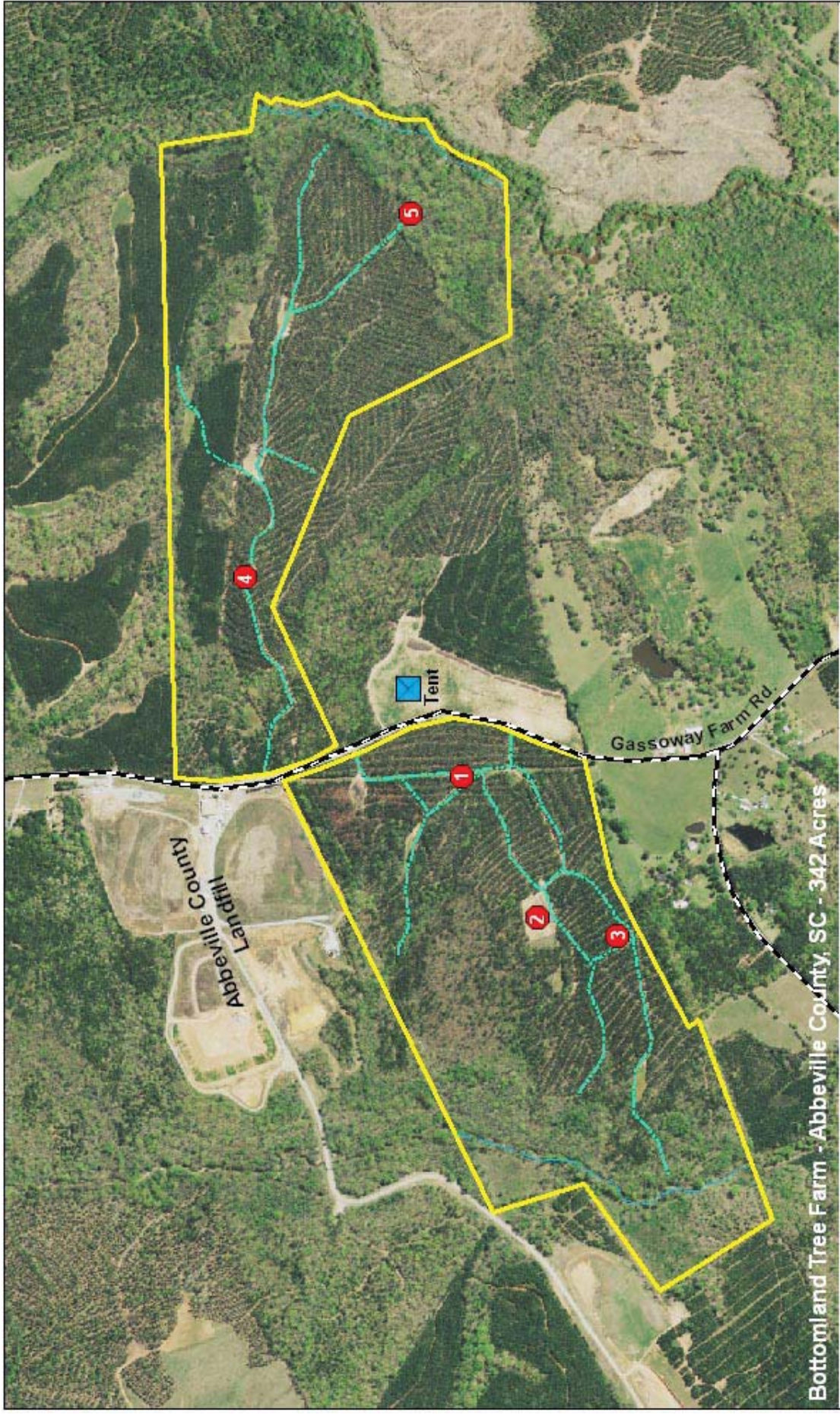
And as for his original dream of purchasing land for wildlife, Jones says that has worked out, too. "The beauty of good forest management is that it also benefits wildlife," he smiles.

His future plans? He's been a firefighter 27 years and figures he has another 8 to go.

"I also plan to continue my forestry practices and want to pass along my stewardship ethic to my daughter."

Below: shots of Jones working on his Tree Farm and a photo of daughter Kayla seated beside a seedling at 9 months old.



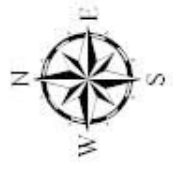


Bottomland Tree Farm - Abbeville County, SC - 342 Acres

Tour Stops:

- Stop 1: Pre-commercial Thinning of Natural Loblolly Pine
- Stop 2: Log Deck Management
- Stop 3: Understory Hardwood Control
- Stop 4: Prescribed Burning
- Stop 5: Bottomland Hardwood Management Options

1" = 1000 feet



Legend:

- Property Boundary
- Secondary Highway
- Woods Road
- Streams
- Tour Stops

Mark T. Jones
SC Tree Farmer of the Year
2010



Trey Cox
Project Forester, SCFC
June 2010

