

# EARLY HISTORY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

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ON NOV. 30, 1967, A HANDFUL OF SENIOR FOREST INDUSTRY MANAGERS AND CONSULTING FORESTERS GATHERED AT THE TREMONT HOTEL, COLUMBIA, SC TO DISCUSS WAYS TO STRENGTHEN THE FOREST INDUSTRY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS AND IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF FOREST PRACTICES IN THE STATE.

THEY NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE FORESTRY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE STATE, THERE WAS NO ORGANIZED GROUP TO REPRESENT ALL FOREST INTERESTS IN LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER MATTERS.

AFTER A RATHER LIVELY DISCUSSION, SOMEONE SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THINGS WOULD BE THROUGH A FORESTRY ASSOCIATION. THE ATTENDEES FELT THE IDEA HAD MERIT AND AGREED TO PURSUE THE MATTER.

A FOLLOW-UP MEETING WAS HELD JAN. 17, 1968 AT THE CAPITAL CABANA MOTEL, COLUMBIA, AND THAT'S WHEN THINGS REALLY STARTED MOVING.

ABOUT 30 FOLKS TURNED OUT AND THEY WERE TOTALLY IN AGREEMENT ABOUT PUTTING TOGETHER THE FRAMEWORK FOR A STATE FORESTRY ASSO-



*SCFA's new Executive Vice President Bob Scott, left, joins Vice President Henry Savage, center, and Charles Flory in examining one of the Association's first agendas.*



*SCFA's charter Board of Directors gathered Dec. 5, 1968. Seated (left to right) Charles Flory, Carl Brown, Boris Hurlbutt and Henry Savage, Jr. Standing (left to right) Don Handley, M. P. Howell, H. P. Starks, Ben Wall, Jr., Henry Higgins, Ray Brandt, C. E. Gibson, and B. F. Williamson.*

CIATION. THEY HAD ELECTED MORRIS MORGAN, CATAWBA CORPORATION, TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN AND RECOMMENDED HE APPOINT A FIVE-MAN COMMITTEE FROM THE LUMBER, PULP AND PAPER, AND OTHER FOREST INTEREST GROUPS AND LANDOWNERS, TO STUDY THE FORMATION OF SUCH AN ORGANIZATION.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT WERE CAM H. NIEDERHOF, WEST VIRGINIA PULP AND PAPER Co., AND CARL A BROWN, INTERNATIONAL PAPER. THEIR ASSISTANTS, R. SCOTT WALLINGER AND ROBERT J. BEASON, WERE ASSIGNED TO SERVE ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY DON HANDLEY, A CONSULTING FORESTER. HAL W. KIRVEN, DARLINGTON VENEER Co., INC., ALSO AGREED TO SERVE AND SHORTLY AFTERWARD ATTORNEY HENRY SAVAGE OFFERED TO PROVIDE LEGAL COUNSEL.

THROUGHOUT THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, THE GROUP WORKED TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR MISSION. THEY CONTACTED ALL FORESTRY ASSOCIATIONS IN THE SOUTH AND OBTAINED COPIES OF BYLAWS, MEMBERSHIP FEES, AND PROGRAMS.

SOON THEY HAD A PROPOSAL READY WHICH INCLUDED A DRAFT CHARTER AND BYLAWS; AN INITIAL BUDGET AND MEMBERSHIP DUES STRUCTURE; AND AN ARRAY OF SUGGESTED PROGRAMS.

THE PROPOSAL WAS PRESENTED TO THE INITIAL GROUP OF INDUSTRY AND CONSULTING FORESTERS AND APPROVED AT THE JUNE 5, 1968 MEETING.

OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS CANVASSED THE STATE, CONTACTING CONSULTING FORESTERS AND MAJOR LANDOWNERS AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY PRESENTING THEIR PLAN. THE RESPONSE WAS POSITIVE

SO INITIAL PLEDGES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT WERE SECURED.

NEXT, NOMINATIONS WERE PREPARED FOR A SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS.

ON DEC. 5, 1968, THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION WAS HELD IN COLUMBIA AT THE CAPITAL CABANA WITH SIXTY-NINE MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENT. CHARLES H. FLORY, RECENTLY RETIRED STATE FORESTER, COLUMBIA, SC, WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT; HENRY SAVAGE, JR., ATTORNEY, CAMDEN, SC, VICE-PRESIDENT; AND BANKER HENRY E. JOHNSON, WINNSBORO, SC, TREASURER.

HANDLEY'S GROUP HAD OBTAINED 229 PLEDGES REPRESENTING \$25,500 SO THE FINANCIAL PICTURE LOOKED SECURE.

FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ADJOURNED, THE FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT FLORY AND DIRECTORS DREW LOTS FOR TERMS OF SERVICE.

THOSE OF ONE YEAR: HENRY HIGGINS, DUKE POWER; BORIS HURLBUTT, CONSULTING FORESTER; JOHN E. NISBET, CONSULTANT; CARL BROWN, INTERNATIONAL PAPER; AND HAL W. KIRVEN, DARLINGTON VENEER.

TWO YEARS: B. F. WILLIAMSON, TIMBERLAND OWNER; H. P. STARKS, KIMBERLY-CLARK; MARLIN H. BRUNER, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY; RAY W. BRANDT, US FOREST SERVICE; AND DAVID SLOAN, FARM BUREAU FEDERATION.

THOSE FOR THREE YEARS: DON HANDLEY, CONSULTING FORESTER; M. P. HOWELL, TIMBERLAND OWNER; BEN R. WALL, JR., CANAL WOOD CORP.; C. E. GIBSON, AND MORRIS MORGAN, CATAWBA CORP.

THE PETITION FOR INCORPORATION OF THE ASSOCIATION WAS MADE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE CHARTER WAS ISSUED DEC. 13, 1968.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION WAS OFFICIALLY BORN AND IN BUSINESS.

ONCE THE ASSOCIATION WAS SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED, THE NEXT TASK WAS TO HIRE AN EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT TO LEAD IT. A LIST OF PROSPECTS WAS PREPARED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE; HANDLEY, BEASON, AND WALLINGER.

CANDIDATES FROM ACROSS THE SOUTHEAST WERE INTERVIEWED. BOB SCOTT, WHO WAS ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY ASSOCIATION, WAS APPROVED AND ON APRIL 1, 1969, HE BEGAN DUTY IN OFFICE SPACE PROVIDED AT THE FORESTRY COMMISSION. A FEW WEEKS LATER, THE ASSOCIATION'S OFFICES IN THE FARM BUREAU BUILDING IN CAYCE WERE READY FOR OPERATION.