

# What's Inside...

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# MAGNOLIA *forester*

[www.cfr.msstate.edu/mssaf](http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/mssaf)

## ALA. INTERNATIONAL PAPER CLOSURE LEAVES REGIONAL SCARS

*Errol Castens*  
*Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal*



Memphis-based International Paper Co.'s plan to shut its Courtland, Ala., paper mill next year may impact landowners and businesses across Northeast Mississippi.

Logging jobs may be lost or moved, and timber owners in some counties may find it difficult to market pulpwood at all.

Plans for the closure were announced on Sept. 11, and the process was expected to be completed sometime in the first three months of 2014. Two of the mill's four processors were shut down in November.

"The business group is still determining a schedule for final shutdown," said IP spokeswoman Laura Gibson.

Among the considerations will be fulfilling existing customer orders.

The Courtland plant produces mostly uncoated papers used in business forms, envelopes, labels, copiers, printers along with coated

magazine papers.

"This decision to permanently close capacity is primarily being driven by demand decline for uncoated free-sheet paper products in the United States," said IP Chairman and CEO John Faraci.

That segment of the paper market began declining in 1999 as online publications and electronic billing and filing replace many paper purposes.

James Henderson, associate extension professor at Mississippi State University specializing in forestry management, said the impact on pulpwood markets in this area will be substantial.

"I've heard that pulpwood prices are already down because of it," he said.

Pulpwood is most often small-diameter poles harvested when pine plantations are thinned so the remaining trees can grow faster. Lesser quantities roughly one-sixth of Mississippi's production come

*continued on page 16*

# from the Chair...

We look forward to 2014, especially for warmer weather. Seriously, I am looking forward to our annual conference April 15-17. This year the Broadleaf Chapter will host our convention in Vicksburg. Dr. Brian Lockhart, Sam Jackson, and their team of hardwood professionals have put together an excellent agenda. Their theme will be "The Ever-Changing Face of Bottomland Hardwoods".

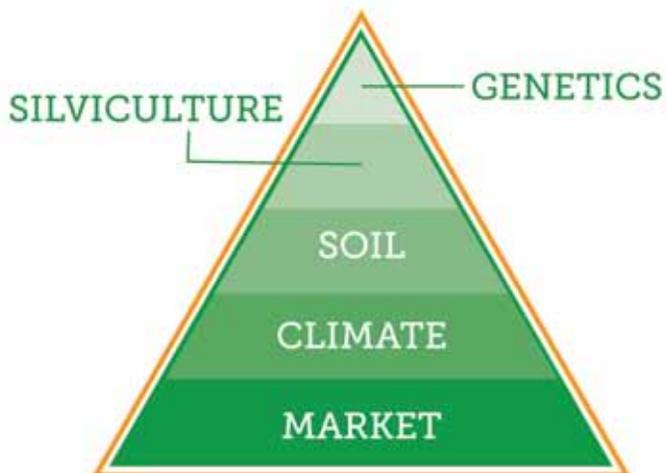
In keeping with our tradition, the convention is also the time that the MS SAF presents awards to deserving foresters. The time is now to submit your nominations for consideration. We offer three awards: Distinguished Service, Young Forester, and Student Chapter Leadership. Criteria and forms are on the MS SAF website at <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/mssaf/awards.html>. Submit nominations to Vice-Chair, Mr. Randy Watkins ([rwatkins@smepa.coop](mailto:rwatkins@smepa.coop)).

In addition, please consider making nominations for national SAF recognition for Fellow, or the Presidential Field Forester Award. Qualifications can be found on the national website at <http://www.safnet.org/about/awards.cfm>. Send nominations for Fellow or the Presidential Field Forester Award to our Council Representative, Dr. Don Grebner ([dgrebner@cfr.msstate.edu](mailto:dgrebner@cfr.msstate.edu)). The deadline for nominations for Fellow is February 28, and the deadline for the Presidential Field Forester Award is May 15.

The 2014 MS SAF Annual Meeting agenda is attached. Save the dates, and plan to attend. I look forward to seeing you there!

John Kushla  
MS SAF Chair

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# from the Vice-Chair...

Growing up down in Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, was quite a treat. The fishing was great and the hunting and trapping were superb. I immensely enjoyed going to Saint Claire's Grammar School and Saint Stanislaus High School. I owned a pirogue for duck hunting and a 1975 model International Scout II 4x4 that was a bona fide tank. I was a total "Bay Rat."

We spent a lot of time down by the Jourdan River. When we weren't fishing, we were hunting for ducks, rabbits, and nutria. We camped on the island one cool night and our skiff drifted away from its mooring. I had to wade and then swim out to get it. My Uncle David shined his light out to the skiff and there were pairs of red eyes all around from the many alligators out trolling back and forth. He told me not to worry, but just touch them on their snout and they would leave me alone. My mother would not have liked how her younger brother watched after me whenever he took me hunting and camping.

I still remember a funny time camping when my Uncle David dared us to light some firecrackers on him. We wrapped that fool with a five hundred pack of Black Cats and lit him up. Now my uncle was "off his rocker" even before he was drafted to Vietnam. He sat

there laughing while they exploded all over him. It was nighttime, so the explosions looked more dramatic. I laughed so hard I couldn't breathe, or maybe it was from the considerable firecracker smoke. What a crazy bunch. Then my cousin "Poss" Tangus fried us a cottontail rabbit in a cast iron skillet heated off a log fire right there on the banks of the river. That fried rabbit was so tender and delicious.

Those childhood memories from 1980 are very clear to me, and I hope all of you can reminisce with joy and laughter. By the way, Gerald Moore says I have webbed feet from walking across that marsh so much.

Of course during my childhood, I also developed a love for the "woods." I used to play quite often in a pine plantation next to our home and have enjoyed working with forest resources ever since. Being a member of the Society of American Foresters has helped me to appreciate the profession of forestry even more. I wish more foresters in Mississippi would recognize the benefits of joining the SAF.

I unsuccessfully tried to persuade several colleagues to join and the excuse was always similar. They would think about it or they knew they should join. They obviously do not see any value in paying dues to the SAF versus buying whatever substitution they choose over the membership. We can all see this challenge, yet I have struggled to figure out a solution. I do believe that the only possibility for our membership to thrive is to focus on the new graduates. At our chapter meetings, I have witnessed few younger members showing up. It's usually the same crowd of regulars each time. Without some new members, we will fade away. My goal is to appeal to the new forestry graduates that membership in the SAF, their only professional organization, does matter.

Randy Watkins  
MS SAF Vice-Chair



## Mississippi Society of American Foresters

John Kushla, Chair  
662.566.2201      jdkushla@ext.msstate.edu

Randy Watkins, Vice-Chair  
601.705.1703      rwatkins@smepa.coop

Marcus Measells, Secretary  
662.325.3550      mmeasells@cfr.msstate.edu

Bob Heinz, Treasurer  
601.964.7138      reheinz@gapac.com

# Executive Committee Meeting

December 2013

- 1. Welcome:** Jason Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting.
  - 2. Anti-Trust Statement:** Jason Gordon gave the nation's antitrust statement and urged strict compliance. Any conversations that encroached on the statement would be noted and brought to an end.
  - 3. Minutes of Last Meeting:** Marc Measells presented the minutes of the July 18, 2013 Executive Committee meeting and asked for everyone to review. James Henderson provided the motion to accept. Jimmy Mordica provided the second. Minutes passed
  - 4. Financial Report:** Bob Heinz provided the third quarter financial statement and report. He mentioned the advertisement in Tree Talk and the fact that the advertisement was not in the last issue. Jason will follow up with Eleana. We have \$7,883.16 in the checking account as of 12/10/2013. The main expenses since the 3rd quarter statement include an \$800 check for the 2014 Convention in Vicksburg, and the business manager and editor stipends. Heinz also handed out dues disbursement checks to those in attendance. Tax return was done under the group filing with National SAF and he noted we were one of the few state chapters that submitted on time. Heinz was going to send each chapter a basic financial statement template to be used for each chapter. He requests that they are returned to him by the end of January. Jimmy Mordica provided the motion to accept. Bob Naegar provided the second. Financial statement passed.
  - 5. 2013 National Convention Review:** Jason Gordon said the HSD meeting was really informative and gave him a better perspective on how SAF works. He mentioned the items donated to the Silent Auction: the Northeast Chapter donated two hats, Four Lakes donated two 4 packs of Timber Beast beer from the Lazy Magnolia Brewing Company, and Marc Measells donated a handmade, hand tuned, signed turkey box call made by Preston Pittman. The turkey call brought \$80 and the hats and beer brought \$40. Mississippi submitted two applications for success stories: 1) the branding initiative that James Henderson started, and 2) the Northeast Chapter work with the Teacher Conservation Workshop. Gordon noted that three of the five winners involved the local SAF Chapter actually implementing the TCW workshops in their states. The Natural Resources issue is now off the table; however there is still discussion about how to increase membership and the Certified Forester process. HSD discussed the BHAGs and the Forestry Source has the one BHAG that came out from the HSD meeting. Next year's meeting will be linked with IUFRO and the Canadian Institute of Forestry in Salt Lake City, Utah.
  - 6. HSD Chair:** Don Grebner provided a brief update of House of Delegates Report. As many of you know, the HSD annual meeting was held at the SAF National Convention in North Charleston, South Carolina on October 22-23. The meeting went well. There were many speakers that discussed a variety of subjects from State level Success Stories, use of social media, updates from the Policy Committee, Helmsbriscoe Services, CFEs, financial status of the national organization, the Fellows nomination process, BHAGs, SAF visioning and branding, and as well as a farewell address from Michael Goergen.
- Although only one issue was brought forth as an action item to HSD, HSD delegates expressed lots of comments pertaining to SAF finances and CFEs.

# Executive Committee Meeting

The one formal issue raised by the Kentucky and Tennessee Society was about the cost effectiveness of SAF HQ being located in Bethesda. An action item for SAF to develop a report on the issue was called to vote, but the vote failed. With regards to SAF Finances, many State Society Chairs expressed concern over the deficit spending by the national SAF. David Lewis's discussion on CFEs was well received and received much interest from HSD Delegates. A vice-Chair for HSD was elected. Mr. Timothy Phelps from the Kentucky-Tennessee Society was elected from a nomination slate of 4 candidates.

Jason Gordon also distributed copies of the slides titled "HSD Meeting–2013 Finance Presentation."

- 7. HSD and Council Report:** Ian Munn reported that there were two hot topics of this meeting:
- 1) Should we recommend that SAF consolidate membership categories into three – Member, Fellow and Student memberships. This would collapse Professional members, Conditional Professional members, Associate members and technician members into one category – Member with all the rights and privileges thereof. This would require ratification by the full membership. Munn and others argued that including Technician members should be decided in a separate vote as the issues are different: Professional members, Conditional professional members and Associate members are all "professional" in their related fields with at least a bachelor's degree whereas technician members are those who have graduated from technical schools and do not have a baccalaureate degree or higher from an accredited forestry program. There are several good arguments why technicians should be included and several why they should not. My point was that the

membership ought to be allowed to vote on them separately because there is concern about this and the issues are different. We successfully passed this recommendation on Saturday – that the two issues be put before the membership for ratification as separate referendums. On Sunday, the ruling was "reconsidered" and technicians were lumped back into the collective group. However, the issue is not completely dead as those who are rewriting our bylaws as part of the necessary changes for updating our articles of incorporation may reinsert the issue there.

The second issue was redesigning the governance structure of SAF. The proposal was to reduce Council to include only representatives from 5-7 "regions" instead of the current 11 districts and the role of these representatives would change from managing SAF to providing oversight of the soon to be hired "CEO". The two cited reasons were cost and efficiency. This did not pass. Instead the Council approved a neutral committee (i.e., the Strategic planning committee) should investigate and report back to Council by December 2014 what is the appropriate (Most effective and efficient) form of governance for SAF. Also in the proposal was that each Council member solicits feedback from their district on this proposed change.

A number of other items were discussed and approved. Most were routine. Council did approve a balanced budget for the first time in four years. Some hard cuts were made, primarily to council travel and number of Council meetings.

Bob Heinz questioned how money would be saved by reducing the size of Council. It was mentioned the amount of travel incurred for Council meetings would be reduced.

# Executive Committee Meeting

December 2013

## 8. 2014 MS SAF Annual Meeting

Sam Jackson provided an overview of the meeting arrangements and agenda. Jackson indicated that registration costs would be \$110. They are waiting to hear back from the caterer on final meal costs. They will also have a silent auction again this year. In addition to sponsors, John Kushla mentioned that we had submitted a PFI grant for \$2,000 to support the annual meeting. We should know in January if it is funded. The meeting announcement and registration information is in this issue of the Magnolia Forester.

## 9. Election Results

Marc Measells presented the election results. With 107 members casting votes, the 2014 officers are John Kushla as Chair, Randy Watkins as Vice-Chair, Marc Measells as Secretary, and Bob Heinz as Treasurer.

## 10. Committee Reports

**Professional Recognition:** Randy Watkins reported we were recognizing eight Golden members this year. It cost \$520 for frames and the Mississippi wooden shaped plaques. Watkins questioned if we should continue to frame all the Golden member recognition plaques. Keith Ward and Brian Mitchell recommended continuing using the frames and plaques. Everyone agreed that was the most appropriate way to present the awards. Jason Gordon also mentioned that we had

nominated Emily Schultz as a Fellow. The Fellow selections committee at the regional level would move it forward.

**Membership Committee:** John Kushla indicated Mississippi has 331 members, 313 renewed for 2013.

## 11. New Business

**Election Cycles:** Jason Gordon discussed the possibility or option of changing our election cycles to multiple years so that people have longer to get used to the position and how things work. It keeps the active leadership to gain more experience. Sam Jackson said some may not be willing to serve multiple years on the local level. Jimmy Mordica said it had both pros and cons but it may be a necessity with how things have changed. It was decided to discuss this in further detail at the next meeting.

Jason Gordon thanked everyone for their help and support this past year. He has gained a new level of appreciation for SAF at all three levels.

**12. Adjourn:** James Henderson made a motion to adjourn. Randy Watkins provided the second. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



# Executive Committee Meeting

MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
(BancorpSouth Account)

January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013

<b>Balance in checking account, January 1, 2013</b>	<b>\$ 6,745.27</b>
SUPPORT and REVENUE	
Chapter/Division Dues	\$ 2,771.50
Interest	\$ 0.97
Advertising	\$ 170.00
MS SAF Annual Meeting Proceeds	\$ 12,215.95
Adjustments to Income	\$ 208.00
Other Misc. Income	\$ 152.00
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 15,518.42</b>
EXPENSES	
Chapter/Division Disbursed	\$ 1,012.50
Business Manager Stipend	\$ 1,800.00
Editor Stipend	\$ 2,100.00
Printing	\$ -
Mailing/Postage	\$ 432.64
Travel	\$ 1,203.14
Supplies	\$ -
Advertising	\$ 485.64
Sponsorships	\$ 350.00
Meeting Costs	\$ 7,357.47
Misc. Expenses	\$ 324.99
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 15,066.38</b>
Increase/(Decrease) in cash	\$ 452.04
<b>Balance in checking account, December 31, 2013</b>	<b>\$ 7,197.31</b>

## CD Information

\$ 5,393.87 12-month CD maturing 2/24/2014 (currently 0.40%)

# chapter NEWS

## **Broadleaf**

Sam Jackson reported their last meeting was held October 17th at Stubs Restaurant in Yazoo City with 20 people present. Dr. Brian Roy Lockhart, Research Forester, U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research, was our guest speaker and presented the "16 S's of Bottomland Hardwood Ecology in Preparation for Silviculture". A business meeting followed the presentation to discuss planning and preparation for the upcoming 2014 MS SAF annual meeting that will be hosted by Broadleaf in Vicksburg April 15-17, 2014 at the Vicksburg Convention Center. The theme of the meeting will be "The Ever-Changing Face of Bottomland Hardwoods". Planning is well underway and has included several visits to VCC to finalize meeting room layout and exhibitor space, catering requirements and services have been initiated with Palmertrees Catering and currently awaiting final cost estimate, an informative and complete agenda has been put together (see below) and speakers contacted for final confirmation. Sponsors and exhibitors are being contacted now, silent auction items are being solicited for donation, and a spouse's tour is being coordinated with the Vicksburg Visitors Bureau and will include a tour of Vicksburg's most historic antebellum homes.

Brian Lockhart will serve as their new Chair and Tim Evans as Treasurer. No Vice-Chair was elected.

## **Capitol**

No report provided.

## **Four Lakes**

Jason Gordon reported they met last week in conjunction with the Northeast Chapter for their annual Christmas party with auction. Don Bell was the auctioneer. The Chapter raised \$260. The new officers are Brady Self as Chair, Jason G. as Secretary, and Britton Hatcher as Treasurer.

Please mark these dates on your calendars. We will have some great speakers this year. Think about inviting foresters who haven't attended in a while. All meetings start at 6 PM. All programs with speakers will provide CFE credits. Looking forward to seeing you there.

March 20: Caren Briscoe, USFS, Holly Springs National Forest District Ranger. Topic: What's going on at Holly Springs National Forest. Place: Oxford Extension office.

July 17: Houston Havens, MDWFP, biologist. Topic: Waterfowl management. Place: Grenada Extension office.

Sept 18: Ian Munn, MSU Forestry, economist. Topic: Forest economic trends before and after the Great Recession. Place: TBD

Dec 2: Christmas party and auction. Place: TBD

## **Loblolly**

Randy Rousseau indicated their last meeting was a tour of the Barge Timberlands hosted by Steve Prestridge. The final meeting will be December 19th at Dorman Lake with elections to be held.

## **Longleaf**

Jimmy Mordica reported they met in September with Jim Hancock as speaker. They didn't have December meeting scheduled. He wanted to make everyone aware of the South Mississippi Longleaf Working Group, chaired by MFC, with partners such as the Forest Service, MDWFP, USDA, and private groups as well. They are going to submit a proposal to get BP funds to do longleaf restoration on private and state lands (3 tiers with 3 coast counties tier 1, etc.) and expect to get several million dollars for this. Jimmy also mentioned that an environmental group out of Switzerland was trying to get Longleaf listed as a T&E species and they were working with Clemson Extension on this. The next Longleaf Working Group meeting is on January 23rd at the Pearl Fire Training Center at

# chapter NEWS

10a.m. All are invited. Jimmy indicated the Longleaf SAF Chapter officers are the same.

## Magnolia

No report provided.

## Northeast

John Kushla indicated their prior meeting included Ethics training and that their very last meeting was in conjunction with Four Lakes with 17 in attendance.

## Homochitto

Brian Naeger indicated no change, no meetings have been held and no interests to have an active chapter.

This chapter has not been active for a very long time. If you are interested in reviving this chapter, please contact John Kushla or Randy Watkins.

## MSU SAF Student Chapter

Robert Grala submitted via email that the Chapter had participated in: 1) Fall Field Day to practice for the 2014 Forestry Conclave, 2) Provided assistance during FARMtastic at the Oktibbeha County Horse Park, 3)

Four members helped Volunteer Starkville plant trees at two school sites, 4) Softball game (two days) to provide opportunity for undergraduate students to socialize, 5) Provided assistance during College of Forest Resources Alumni Tailgate, Awards Banquet, and Welcome Back BBQ, 6) A Chapter representative served as Smokey Bear during MSU Homecoming Tailgate for the Mississippi Forestry Commission exhibit booth, 7) Provided assistance during 2013 Wood Magic Science Fair, 8) Fall Adopt-a-Highway cleanup, 9) Held monthly general meetings, 10) Hosted four presentations by forestry companies and organizations, 11) Hosted two interview days for internships conducted by forest companies, and 12) A group of Chapter representatives attended the SAF 2013 National Convention in Charleston, SC. Students manned an exhibit booth and assisted in recruiting potential students. The Chapter received a 2nd Place Award during the Outstanding SAF Student Chapter Award Competition.

## Mississippi Society of American Foresters Chapter Chairs



Four Lakes  
Dr. Brady Self  
bradys@ext.msstate.edu

Magnolia  
Mr. Jeff Keeton  
jeff.keeton@jcc.edu

Capitol  
Mr. Russell Bozeman  
rbozeman@mfc.state.ms.us

Northeast  
Dr. John Kushla  
jdkushla@ext.msstate.edu

Broadleaf  
Dr. Brian Lockhart  
blockhart@fs.fed.us

Loblolly  
Dr. Brent Frey  
bfrey@cfr.msstate.edu

Homochitto  
Vacant

Longleaf  
Mr. Jimmy Mordica  
jmordica@fs.fed.us

# annual meeting

## The Ever Changing Face of Bottomland Hardwoods



2014 Annual Meeting | April 15-17 | Vicksburg

### SPEAKERS

**Dr. Jim Chambers**, Weaver Brothers Professor of Forestry, School of Renewable Natural Resources, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Colonel John W. Cross**, Commander, Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, Mississippi

**Mr. W. Norman Davis**, President, Land Acquisition/Sales, Anderson-Tully Worldwide, Vicksburg, Mississippi

**Mr. Buddy Dupuy**, Reforestation, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Pineville, Louisiana

**Dr. Andy Ezell**, Department Head and Professor Department of Forestry, College of Forest Resources, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi

**Dr. Emile Gardiner**, Research Forester, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research, Stoneville, Mississippi

**Dr. John Hodges**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Forestry, College of Forest Resources, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi

**Dr. Richard Keim**, Associate Professor, School of Renewable Natural Resources, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Dr. Theodor Leininger**, Project Leader and Research Plant Pathologist, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research, Stoneville, Mississippi

**Dr. Brian Roy Lockhart**, Research Forester, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research, Stoneville, Mississippi

**Dr. Christopher Oswald**, Research Forester USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Forest and Inventory Analysis, Knoxville, Tennessee

**Mrs. Sonja Oswald**, Forester, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis, Knoxville, Tennessee

**Dr. Nathan Schiff**, Research Entomologist, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research, Stoneville, Mississippi

**Mr. Mike Staten**, Wildlife Biologist, Anderson-Tully Worldwide, Lake Village, Arkansas

**Mr. Chandler Van Voorhis**, Managing Partner and Co-founder of C2I, LLC, GreenTrees, The Plains, Virginia

**Mr. Randy Wilson**, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Mississippi Migratory Bird and Field Office, Jackson, Mississippi

# annual meeting

## The Ever Changing Face of Bottomland Hardwoods



2014 Annual Meeting | April 15-17 | Vicksburg

### ACTIVITIES

#### **Sporting Clays at Tara Wildlife | 6791 Eagle Lake Shore Rd | Vicksburg, MS**

Lunch and sporting clays will be hosted by Tara Wildlife at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 15. Two boxes of shells will be provided (\$6 for each additional box). Participants must bring their own gun, either a 12 or 20 gauge. Transportation to and from Tara Wildlife will be on your own. Tara Wildlife is located about 30 minutes northwest of Vicksburg. From I-20 travel north on Highway 61. Go 11.5 miles, turn left on Highway 465 for 14 miles, look for cotton gin on left, turn onto Eagle Lake Shore Road, and follow 5 miles of paved road and 2 miles of gravel until you reach Tara. A map to Tara Wildlife can be found at their website, <http://www.tarawildlife.com/about-tara/locationmap/>

#### **Spouse's Tour**

The spouse's tour will depart the Vicksburg Convention Center at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 16, with an approximate return of 2:30 p.m. It will begin with a guided tour of historic Vicksburg and will include a visit to one of Vicksburg's most historic and finest antebellum homes, Cedar Grove Mansion-Inn. A private luncheon will be served at the Main Street Market Café. The afternoon will conclude with a guided tour of the George Washington Ball House, one of the first and largest Federal style homes built in Old Town Vicksburg in 1822.

### LOCATION & LODGING

The 2014 MS SAF Annual Meeting will be held at the Vicksburg Convention Center (1600 Mulberry Street, Vicksburg, MS 39180). A block of rooms has been reserved at the Ameristar Casino and Hotel (4116 S Washington Street, Vicksburg, MS 39180) at the special rate of \$69 per night (+ tax). To ensure this special hotel rate please call (601) 638-1000 by Tuesday, April 8 and mention that you will be attending the MS SAF Meeting. Other accommodations are available in the area.

### CONTINUING FORESTRY EDUCATION

This meeting qualifies for 9.5 hours of Continuing Forestry Education, Category 1-CF



# annual meeting

## The Ever Changing Face of Bottomland Hardwoods 2014 Annual Meeting | April 15-17 | Vicksburg



### REGISTRATION

Register online at <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/mssaf/meeting.html> or complete the form below and mail with your check or money order made payable to Broadleaf Chapter MS SAF. For more information call Stephanie Allison at 662-235-4989.

Stephanie Allison  
c/o Broadleaf Chapter MS SAF  
1562 Providence Road  
Cruger, MS 38924

#### Cancellation Policy

Should you need to cancel your attendance, contact Stephanie Allison no later than Friday, March 21, 2014. Qualified substitutions may be made for cancellations received after 5:00 p.m. this date.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

SAF Member ..... \$150

Non SAF Member..... \$175

SAF Student Member..... \$35

Spouses Awards Dinner ..... \$30

Spouses Tour ..... \$45

Late Fee (after 3/21)..... \$25

Sporting Clays..... \$50

TOTAL ..... \$-----

### EXHIBITORS

One table..... \$300

Two tables ..... \$450

Includes Complimentary Registration

### SPONSORS

Platinum..... \$1000

Gold..... \$500

Silver ..... \$250

Bronze..... \$100

# from the past-Chair...

Greetings Mississippi SAF Members.

Since I am now past state chapter chair, this note is supposed to be a kind of sayonara, hasta la vista, or auf Wiedersehen. Well, I don't plan on going anywhere soon. This past year has fortified more than ever my dedication to SAF and I plan on staying as active as I can in this organization. Even more than before, I have realized how lucky we are to be part of such a respectable and proud organization. At both the local, state, and national levels, foresters are making personal sacrifices to work for and promote the forestry profession. This is no small task in an era that is often characterized by cynicism, apathy, and repeated attacks on forest management.

Mississippi SAF was gracious to provide a small stipend so that I could travel to the national meeting in Charleston, South Carolina to represent the state society. I spent two days in the House of Society Delegates (HSD) meeting and another day in special committee meetings. HSD was a whirlwind of brainstorming ideas about how to address some of SAF's most important issues, such as membership, finances, and branding. Most foresters I know don't have much interest in public relations. But branding, a public relations strategy, is crucial to SAF's ability to stand out in the eyes of foresters as well as the general public.

Foresters are a diverse lot, so there are many opinions about the characteristics of the SAF brand. We must work towards a shared concept of who we were in the past, who we are presently, and who we will be in the future with many young foresters who have a different perspective on natural resource management. Participating in HSD made me realize how complex the issues are. I have been hearing about these issues since I was a forestry undergraduate student. Because they are inherent in our professional society, they will never really go away and we'll be hearing about them for a long time to come.

Besides the national meeting, other significant events last year included an excellent state annual meeting hosted by the Capital Chapter at the Agricultural and Forestry Museum in Jackson. We had some great speakers who taught us about land values, prescribed burning, turkey habitat, ecosystem restoration, BMPs, and a special appearance by State Commissioner of Agriculture Cindy Hyde-Smith. Our members will be talking about the crawfish boil and Blues Rangers for years to come.

Notably during 2013, our members received a number of important honors. For example, Emily Schultz was named an SAF Fellow, a prestigious honor in any professional association. Russell Fletcher won the Presidential Field Forester Award in addition to winning a district Tree Inspector of the Year Award from the Mississippi Forestry Association. As well, Don Grebner was elected to represent our district (Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas) in SAF Council. Thanks to Ian Munn for his service on Council during the previous few years.

As a final thought, I would like to encourage all of you to take a leadership role in SAF. All of you have interests, experience, and skills that can benefit our professional society. It is one thing to be just a member of an organization, but it is a meaningful and rewarding experience to be an active member.

It was an honor to serve you during 2013 and I look forward to working alongside you in the future.

Jason Gordon  
MS SAF past-Chair

## Council Report

*Highlights by Ian Munn, District XI Council Representative*

There were two hot topics at the last 2013 SAF Council Meeting. First, should we recommend that SAF consolidate membership categories into three – Member, Fellow and Student memberships. This would collapse Professional members, Conditional Professional members, Associate members and Technician members into one category – Member with all the rights and privileges thereof. This would require ratification by the full membership. I and others argued that including Technician members should be decided in a separate vote as the issues are different: Professional members, Conditional Professional members, and Associate members are all “professional” in their related fields with at least a bachelor’s degree whereas Technician members are those who have graduated from a technical school and do not have a baccalaureate degree or higher from an accredited forestry program. There are several good arguments why technicians should be included and several why they should not. My point was that the membership ought to be allowed to vote on them separately because there is concern about this and the issues are different. We successfully passed this recommendation on Saturday – that the two issues be put before the membership for ratification as separate referendums. On Sunday, the ruling was

“reconsidered” and technicians were lumped back into the collective group. However, the issue is not completely dead as those who are rewriting our bylaws as part of the necessary changes for updating our Articles of Incorporation may reinsert the issue there.

The second issue was redesigning the governance structure of SAF. The proposal was to reduce Council to include only representatives from 5-7 “regions” instead of the current 11 districts and the role of these representatives would change from managing SAF to providing oversight of the soon to be hired “CEO”. The two cited reasons were cost and efficiency. This did not pass. Instead the Council approved a neutral committee (i.e., the Strategic Planning Committee) should investigate and report back to Council by December 2014 what is the appropriate (i.e., most effective and efficient) form of governance for SAF. Also in the proposal was that each Council member solicit feedback from their district on this proposed change.

A number of other items were discussed and approved. Most were routine. Council did approve a balanced budget for the first time in four years. Some hard cuts were made, primarily to council travel and number of Council meetings.

## House of Society Delegates Report

*Highlights by Don Grebner, Mississippi Chair*

This memo is a brief update of House of Society Delegates (HSD) activities for 2013. As many of you know, the HSD annual meeting was held at the SAF National Convention in North Charleston, South Carolina on October 22-23. The meeting went well. There were many speakers that discussed a variety of subjects from State Level Success Stories, use of social media, updates from the Policy Committee, Helmsbriscoe Services, CFEs, financial status of the national organization, the Fellows nomination process, Big Hairy Audacious Goals (BHAGs), SAF visioning and branding, as well as a farewell address from Michael Goergen.

Although only one issue was brought forth as an action item to HSD, HSD delegates expressed lots of comments pertaining to SAF finances and CFEs. The one formal issue raised by the Kentucky and Tennessee

Society was about the cost effectiveness of SAF headquarters being located in Bethesda, Maryland. An action item for SAF to develop a report on the issue was called to vote, but the vote failed. With regards to SAF finances, many State Society Chairs expressed concern over the deficit spending by the national SAF. David Lewis's discussion on CFEs was well received and received much interest from HSD Delegates.

A vice-Chair for HSD was elected. Mr. Timothy Phelps from the Kentucky-Tennessee Society was elected from a nomination slate of 4 candidates.

I greatly appreciate the assistance from SAF Staff, Council members, and Anne Heissenbuttel (Vice-Chair) in helping with this year's HSD.

Don Grebner  
HSD Chair

## ALA. INTERNATIONAL PAPER CLOSURE LEAVES REGIONAL SCARS

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from small hardwood trees and tops. Pulpwood and residues from sawmilling and other timber processes serve as the fiber basis of most paper.

The Courtland IP plant, with an annual production capacity of 950,000 tons, has historically competed to buy Northeast Mississippi pulpwood with the Packaging Corporation of America plant in Counce, Tenn., which produced 1.056 million tons in 2012.

"Given the capacity of the IP mill, demand in part of north Mississippi will be cut by at least half," Henderson said. "Also, the PCA mill in west Tennessee will tighten its procurement radius, as it no longer has to compete with IP for wood fiber in northeast Alabama."

T.R. Watson Jr., a registered forester with Oxford-based Shiloh Creek Land, Timber and Wildlife Services said his company, which specializes in pine plantation thinnings, hauls its pulpwood to Counce. He hopes Lafayette County timber owners will still be within PCA's buying radius, even though their buying has already slowed.

"They're getting more wood from north Alabama, and it's stopping the mill up," he said. "I think Lafayette County is going to be about as far west as you're going to be able to go and still buy wood; I don't know if that 150- or 160-mile drive is still going to be available. It may make us move farther north with our operations. There will be people going out of business over this."

David Jones, an MSU associate extension professor whose specialty is forest products, said the Weyerhaeuser pulp mill at Columbus and the Resolute newsprint mill at Grenada, along with Norbord's

oriented strand boardplant at Guntown are much smaller facilities and can take up only a small part of the surplus from the Courtland closing.

"Pulp paper mills are a huge industry within an area," he said. "They're regionally located because you can't support multiple paper mills if they're too close together, because they draw so much material in to do what they do."

Registered Forester Jaysen Hogue is owner of New Albany-based MercyTree Forestry Services, which recently added small-scale logging to its offering of consulting services.

Hogue said the loss of a pulpwood market would be a financial setback for timber owners but that an even bigger financial risk is neglecting to thin trees in a timely manner.

"That hurts your production of sawtimber in the future," he said. "If you can't sell the thinnings, about all you can do is to cut them and let them rot away so your remaining trees can grow on up to sawtimber-quality and size."

Some good news may be on the horizon.

Jones said a depressed pulpwood market would make Northeast Mississippi a desirable location for biomass companies such as those that make woodstove pellets for home heating and wood briquettes for industrial fuel, though he knows of none that are currently scouting locations.

Don Whitehead, registered forester and area manager for a nationwide timberland investment advisory firm, said Northeast Mississippi's timber surplus will likely entice new or renewed enterprises.

# features

“We’re hopefully on the cusp of an economic upgrade to some extent, so the building material facilities are already upgrading and increasing production. We’ve also got others looking at reopening previously closed mills,” he said, noting an OSB plant at Grenada and a plywood facility at Louisville.

He also said a four- to six-year window for thinning harvests before trees begin losing significant growth should keep timber owners from panicking.

“We’re very hopeful; we’ve just got to get through this one-and-a-half or two-year period,” Whitehead said. “Something will come in.”

