

Magnolia FORESTER

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In this Issue

2 Comments from the
Chair & Chair-Elect

4 Executive Committee
Minutes

6 Chapter News

8 National SAF News

9 Policy Scoreboard

10 Annual Meeting

11 Features

Future Trends in Forestry 2005 Annual Meeting

Lester Spell, Mississippi Agriculture Commissioner, was the keynote speaker for the MS SAF annual meeting held March 8-9, 2005. The annual meeting topics were on future trends in forestry.

The Capitol Chapter did an exceptional job in hosting the meeting at the Mississippi Ag and Forestry Museum.

The MS SAF thanks our sponsors for making this year's meeting a success.

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The Magnolia Forester is published quarterly by the Mississippi Society of American Foresters

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We have enjoyed another successful Annual Meeting hosted by the Capitol Chapter. Attendance and profits were excellent. Due to family illness I have been called away from the past two annual meetings. I do not know if these meetings are omens or not.

The major issue with the SAF continues to be membership. For several years membership has been declining and MS SAF is no exception. Over 50 members were purged from the rolls last year and even larger numbers were removed the preceding two years. This year will not be an exception since 70 members were in arrears as of the first of May. I would like to encourage each of you to make a special effort to recruit new members.

As you know, there is a reorganizational effort taking

place with the Mississippi Forestry Commission. I contacted the chairman of the commissioners and requested that the MS SAF be represented on the Advisory Council (10 members). This request did not receive favorable attention. Although two or three members of the Council are SAF members they are not representing the MS SAF. A professional organization consisting of 450 members should have had representation in this process.

The 2006 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Magnolia Chapter. I am sure Ken Robey, Chair of the Magnolia Chapter, would appreciate any assistance you could provide.

Remember the National SAF Convention is October 19-23, 2005 in Fort Worth, Texas.



Tree Planting Memorial

The late Stanley J. Ursic was memorialized by the 4-Lakes Chapter of the Mississippi Society of American Foresters at the Forest Hydrology Laboratory.

A bald cypress tree was planted in memory of Stanley. Ursic, a forest hydrologist at the lab for some 35 years, also served as first chapter chairman when the 4-Lakes Chapter was organized in 1957.

The Magnolia Forester will be published twice a year, as approved by the MS SAF Executive Committee. Publication dates are June (submittals due May 15) and December (submittals due November 15). Please try to meet the deadlines for submitting materials.

Comments from the Chair-Elect

What important issue facing SAF today can you individually impact in a short period of time, with relatively little effort? The answer is: declining membership in SAF.

On April 30, 2005, MS SAF membership stood at 469, with 71 members not yet renewed for 2005. National membership was 16,087 with 1,891 delinquent members. The roll will be purged of those members who do not renew by July 1. MS SAF has averaged purging 63 members per year since 2002. SAF has averaged purging 1,878 members per year over the same period. Your help is needed to stem the tide.

How can you positively impact SAF membership?

- Emulate Don Bell and carry blank membership applications, and at every opportunity, offer them to members, and to prospective members.
- Call or e-mail me and I will provide you a list of delinquent members to contact and encourage to renew membership.
- Submit the name of a young non-member forester to 4-Lakes Chapter; it's possible that the initial membership could be partially sponsored.
- Go online to www.safnet.org and participate in "Cultivate for the Future" by

donating \$35 (tax deductible) to sponsor a new student member.

Why should anyone renew SAF membership, or join for the first time? SAF is the professional forester's organization, as the AMA and the PPA are for their representative professions. You can keep abreast of news and educational articles through the Journal of Forestry, the Southern Journal of Forestry, the Forestry Source, the E-Forester, and MS SAF's Magnolia Forester. Participation in your local and state SAF chapter provides opportunity to network with area forestry professionals and earn Continuing Forestry Education credits to help maintain state registration and maintain SFI training requirements, at no cost. Most meetings provide a good meal and time to socialize. Finally, in these changing times, SAF membership can look mighty good on your resume.

Professional member dues are \$79; that's only 22 cents per day; what can you buy with 22 cents in this day and time? The \$79 is an introductory rate that applies for the first five years of membership.

Call me at 662-226-3008 (e-mail dmwisema@gapac.com) and I'll mail or e-mail membership applications to you. Thanks for your help.



Don Bell presented the award to Vigour at a 4-Lakes Chapter meeting. Bell had accepted the award at the SAF Annual Meeting.

Vigour receives Presidential Field Forester Award

The Society of American Foresters has recognized Tom Vigour of Winona with its Presidential Field Forester Award.

It is appropriate that SAF recognize those members of our profession who actively practice professional forestry in the field. Practitioners are the true foundation of our profession.

Practitioners often operate in nearly complete anonymity, yet their actions are one of the most important and visible contributions to the viability and understanding of our profession. This is where forestry truly happens and it is important that we recognize those who perform the art and science of forestry each and every day.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

- I. Welcome – Maurice Mitchell
- II. Anti-Trust Statement – Maurice Mitchell
- III. Minutes of Last Meeting – Scott Payne
- IV. Financial Report – Steve Grado/Tammy Coleman
 - a. A review of the financial report was given.
 - b. Debbie Gaddis motioned that the Silent Auction Proceeds, approximately \$1,356 be divided as follows: 25% to SAF Leadership Academy and 75% to the John Vanderford Fund at MSU. Don Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried.
 - c. Motion was made to accept financial report, the motion carried.
 - d. Recommendation by Debbie Gaddis to use MS SAF funds to sponsor SAF memberships for County Foresters. After some discussion a prospectus was requested for further review of the issue.
- V. Firewise Program – Leslie Blackwell
 - a. Leslie presented a very informative slideshow on the Firewise Program.
 - b. Firewise is an information/education program for homeowners, landowners and all others that encounter the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). It is a collective effort by many state and local agencies.
 - c. The Mississippi Forestry Commission is working on a grant to train two Firewise representatives in each region.
- VI. Mississippi Forest Inventory (MIFI) – Wayne Tucker
 - a. The MS SAF already has a position statement of support for MIFI.
 - b. The current issue facing MIFI is no funding in 2005 allocated by the Mississippi Legislature.
 - c. Contingency plans for 2006 include meeting with the Association of Consulting Foresters to recruit volunteers to assist with inventory.
 - d. Wayne approached the MS SAF about recruiting help from the Chapters. MIFI would provide training and would furnish the equipment; volunteers would provide their own transportation. The average daily rate of inventory is 7-8 plots.
 - f. At present 4 counties have been finished in SW region. MIFI plans to mov-



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

- ing into the SE region next year.
- g. Suggestion was made to involve students in the effort.
- h. The issue was unofficially tabled by the Committee pending more information.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Awards Committee:
 - i. The awards committee has candidates for all awards.
- b. MSU Advisory Committee – Les Shelby
 - i. The most recent meeting was held October 12 and 13, 2004; most committee representatives were present. (3 page handout was provided and summarizes the following).
 - a. Steve Butler was elected as chairman of the committee.
 - b. A discussion about recruitment of the next Dean/Director for the College of Forest Resources and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center was held. The job has been advertised and a list of candidates has been assembled.
 - 3. Forestry enrollment has gone from 450 in 2000 to 375 in 2004
 - 4. MSU SAF Student Chapter was recognized as the Most Outstanding Chapter in the Nation.
 - 5. Unanimous in the decision that the Summer Field Session should be continued. Decided that if total hours must be reduced other courses should be dropped before the Summer Field Session.
- c. Nominating Committee
 - i. Mike Wiseman and Andy Londo are candidates for Vice Chair
- d. Policy – Bob Daniels was not present but submitted a 2 page report.
- e. MWF Report – Steve Emerson

- i. MWF is looking at adding a Spring show on outdoor recreation.
- ii. Steve attended a Watershed Workshop:
 - a. Big Black Watershed has been functioning and the Pearl Groups (Upper and Lower Pearl) are picking up.
 - b. Watersheds in all states are being looked at to provide water as a public resource. West of the Mississippi this is an issue.
 - c. Steve suggested that we look at getting representatives on these advisory committees.
- f. Council Report – Don Bell
 - i. Membership in Mississippi is within 10 or 15 members of meeting our goal. The Tri-Lakes Chapter has met their goal. National membership is approximately 15,000. The SAF lost 600 members around the first of July. MSU has 53 members, the best in the country.
 - ii. National meeting – Fort Worth, Texas in October 2005.
 - iii. Bob Daniels is Councilman.
 - iv. Tom Vigour received Field Forester Award.
- g. 2004 National Meeting Report – Bryant Myatt
 - i. Bryant reported that the MSU Student Chapter was well represented and he had a lot of interaction with students.

VIII. New Business

- a. Auditing Committee - An audit was held on the MS SAF financial records. Everything was in order and the audit went fine.

IX. Adjournment

CHAPTER NEWS

4-Lakes

The 4-Lakes Chapter held a meeting on April 21. It was held on the campus of Holmes Community College in Grenada, MS. Carl Johnson and President Bobby Edwards informed members of the capabilities of the smaller handheld GPS Units. There were 17 members present.

Minutes from the last meeting and the treasury report were presented and accepted.

Mike Wiseman told members about the new student campaign. He also gave a report on the nominating committee. Nominees were presented and accepted by the members.

Mr. Bell gave a report on the State meeting.

The next meeting will be held on June 16.

Members will be touring The Antique Wood Company in North Carrollton. The company specializes in salvaging wood from old structures.

Magnolia

The Magnolia chapter's last meeting was held on April 21. The guest speaker was Keith Burnell from the Mississippi Extension Service. His presentation was on noxious weed species in south Mississippi in which he spoke mainly on Cogon Grass and Kudzu.

Capitol

The Capitol Chapter hosted the MS SAF Annual Meeting in March with approximately 100 individuals in attendance.

Northeast

The next planned meeting is July 28, 2005. Johnny Thompson of Landmark Systems will be the

featured speaker. He will speak on the Integration of our present day GPS Technology into Forestry Field Data Collection.

Broadleaf

Nothing to report.

Loblolly

The Loblolly Chapter will be scheduling a meeting this summer to discuss the current legislative budget situation and the subsequent effects on forestry.

Homochitto

Nothing to report.

JCJC Student Chapter

The JCJC Student Chapter sold trees on Arbor Day to benefit the Jones Junior Community College Foundation's Scholarship Fund. The chapter also lost a former member and a fellow student while serving in Iraq. The Student Chapter organized a memorial in his name and planted a live oak in his memory at the Veterans Memorial Museum in Laurel, Mississippi.

MSU SAF Student Chapter

The Student Chapter has held several spring field day events at Dorman Lake on the John W. Starr Memorial Forest. The field day prepares students for the 2005 Annual Southern Forestry School Conclave. The MSU SAF Student Chapter attended the 48th A.S.F.C. Conclave at the Expo Center in Nacogdoches, TX in March. The top three winners of this year's Conclave were University of Arkansas at Monticello, 1st Place, Stephen F. Austin State

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CHAPTER NEWS

University, 2nd Place, and University of Georgia, 3rd Place. Mississippi State came in 7th which was an improvement of 2 places from last year. Jared Wright and Jason Walley placed 2nd in the DBH estimation and Pole classification events. Eddie Harsh placed 2nd in the log chopping event.

The Student Chapter has hosted numerous guest speakers. Sonny Greer and Mike Kuypers, from the Florida Division of Forestry, gave a talk about the Florida Division of Forestry and provided information to students on their employment opportunities in forest management and forest fire protection. Representatives from LandMark Systems spoke about their products such as integrated GPS/field computers.

The Student Chapter has continued to honor their Adopt-A-Highway commitment by picking up trash along Highway 25 south. This spring, members of the Student Chapter sponsored Project Learning Tree activities for the Third Grade at the Overstreet School in Starkville.

The Student Chapter sponsored 5 students to attend the Mississippi State University Office of Student Life's Emergent Leader Workshop and sponsored one member to attend the MSU Spring Dinner Etiquette Workshop. The MSU SAF Student Chapter also sponsored one of its officers, President Angela DeLaughter, to attend the SAF Leadership Academy in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

In the spring, the Student Chapter sponsored an American Tree Farm Certification training workshop for students at Mississippi State University. The chapter assisted in organizing the event and invited Mississippi Forestry Commission personnel to provide technical assistance. Approximately 20 students registered and received their American Tree Farm Inspector's Certification.

The MSU SAF Student Chapter sponsored a high school student to attend the Natural Resource Summer Camp sponsored by Mississippi State University.

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NATIONAL SAF NEWS

Earth Day Heroes: *Forests for Humanity* knows that trees are homes for people too!

Today's heroes often show up in the most unlikely places - and in the most unlikely uniforms. And you'll seldom see them on the 10 o'clock news. But at the end of the day, there's little doubt in the minds of 90 families in Minnesota who the heroes are in their lives.

Meet our 2005 Earth Day Heroes from Minnesota who together, through Society of American Forester's Forests for Humanity program, contributed the equivalent of about \$225,000 to help over 90 less fortunate Minnesota families have livable homes.

Family forest landowners - Mark and Dave Hanson, Carl Wolf, Dave Arnold, Dave Parent, and Bob Ferchi to name a few - joined skill and passion to work with Rick Dahlman, forester for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and area Society of American Foresters (SAF) members to provide wood for homes. They also partnered with area loggers, truckers, and local mills, like the Johnson Logging and Lumber of Cannon Falls, who donated all or a portion of their time to harvest the trees, haul them to the mill, and turn them into building products.

Forests for Humanity is a national project sponsored by SAF. It begins when SAF members work with forest landowners to craft forest plans. These plans include actions to improve water, increase food and shelter for animals, and to make the trees stronger and more abundant. When the plan is done, the land managers have the option of giving the wood to build homes for needy families. In return, the families give back to the land by

planting trees and doing other restoration work to ensure there are future forests for enjoyment and more homes. It's a true story of how when we give to the land, the lands gives back to us.

Family forests remain an important resource for all Americans. Did you know that over 40 percent of the forestland in the US is family-owned forestland? And about 90 percent of endangered species find at least some of their food and shelter on non-federal lands, including family forest lands. A forester knows that when the forest is well cared for people and animals benefit. Forests are sources of clean water, homes for animals, solitude for hikers, and renewable resources for people.

SAF and its members work in partnership with state and federal agencies to support the Nation's more than 10 million family forest owners. When asked about the most important reasons for owning forest land, families said their top two reasons were beauty and scenic value and the desire to protect nature and biological diversity. Programs, like the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) and the Forest Stewardship Program, provide valuable education, technical assistance, and cost-share funds to help landowners create and carry out sound land stewardship plans. These programs come through state and federal agencies. SAF is working with Congress to ensure these programs get funded. We hope that as Congress begins to think about 2006 funding, they ensure these and other forest landowner programs have adequate funding so that we can celebrate even more Earth Day Heroes!

POLICY SCOREBOARD

The Policy Scoreboard is a regular report in the Magnolia Forester on Policy Committee activities. Please express your opinion on any or all of the positions of the MS SAF by sending an E-mail with your comments to the Policy Committee at bobd@ext.msstate.edu or call 662.325.3151.

This year, 2005, is a defining time for Mississippi SAF members. As SAF members we must decide whether we are determined to be a voice for Mississippi forestry or if we'd rather leave "all that policy stuff" to others like the Mississippi Forestry Association (MFA). Here's why.

In Governor Barbour's budget presented last fall, he revealed his plan to reorganize the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) and place the agency under the authority of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. This development caught the forestry community by surprise. MFA, MS SAF, and many others quickly communicated that the state forestry agency should be a stand-alone organization and that forestry was important enough to the state to warrant a first-line state agency. The bills that would have reorganized the MFC were allowed to die in the 2005 Legislature, but a promise was made that unless reorganization takes place others will be introduced in 2006.

Developing a reorganization plan for the MFC in 6 to 9 months is a large task. The State Forester has retired and the MFC Commissioners have the task of leading the coming reorganization. To assist them the MFC Commissioners have assembled an advisory committee. The MS SAF is not represented on that advisory committee even though your MS SAF leadership requested to be on it. (One committee member is an SAF member but he is not there to represent MS SAF.) In March, the MS SAF leadership wrote a letter to the MFC Commissioners to follow-up the request for a seat on the advisory committee. To date, the letter is unanswered and the advisory committee has met

about 3 times. Is this something that bothers you as a professional forester and SAF member? It does me. A famous lawyer once said, "People will treat you the way you let them treat you". I encourage MS SAF members to discuss this at the next chapter meeting and express your thoughts.

What should be the next step for MS SAF? I encourage all SAF members to ask your MFC Commissioners and legislators why SAF was treated this way. (You can find your Commissioner and legislator on the web.) Probably many are not aware of the situation. Does it make sense to leave the professional forester's group out of such reorganization? We stand ready to help if asked.

On another note, the MS SAF Policy Committee met on February 16 and April 27, 2005. At these meetings we discussed the MFC situation at length. We reviewed a draft position on the need for a first-line state agency for forestry and discussed the need for a draft position on planning for forestry's future. We further identified five existing positions that expire in 2005 and need review. We updated the situation on Mississippi National Forest Planning and TMDL reports being circulated by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

The next meeting of the Policy Committee is July 20, 2005. If your chapter does not have a representative on the Policy Committee I encourage you to appoint one so you and your members can follow and be a part of forest policy developments.

annual meeting



The silent auction raised \$ to be sent to the SAF Leadership Academy and to the John Vanderford Fund at MSU.



Exhibitors were on display in the Ethnic Heritage Building at the Ag and Forestry Museum.



Tommy Miller (l) was recognized as a SAF Fellow by Past-Chair Maurice Mitchell.



Tim Traugott (l) was recognized as a SAF Fellow by Past-Chair Maurice Mitchell.



Don Bell accepted the Young Forester Award for Neil Kirkland.



Orlando Ellerby (l) received the Outstanding Student Award from faculty advisor Don Grebner.



Maurice Mitchell received the Past-Chair award for his outstanding service through the year.

Suggested topics of interest for Chapter meetings An informal survey of the MS SAF Loblolly Chapter

Please suggest any speakers or topics that you think would be interesting.

- Site Prep, Herbicide, Fertilization
- An update on MSU Forestry School, foreign trips taken by foresters
- Land Mark Systems—Johnny Thompson
- Real time inventory
- Impact of changing ownerships (LLC's) on the future of forest management
 1. Andy Ezell—forest herbicides,
 2. Debbie Gaddis—changes in forest taxation laws,
 3. John Hodges—forest certification
- Duffy Newbauer—Civil War Reinactor. He has built a civil war era army wagon. The wood

used to make it and it's properties would be interesting

- Chief of the US Forest Service
- New technology (genetics, aerial photo, etc.)
- Get someone to discuss the key issues facing MS—get an outside viewpoint
- Danny Hartley—Biologist Corps of Engineers Tenn Tom Waterway managing over 150,000 acres of forestlands in MS & AL. Danny has a BS in Forestry and MS Wildlife Ecology from MSU. Has been employed with the USACOE on Tenn-Tom for over 20 years—excellent speaker, Topic: Managing forests for recreation and wildlife.

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Study urges state to seek wood-pulp processing plant

Wood chips discarded from milled lumber or thinned timber stands could reap millions of dollars for a company that invests in a pulp-processing facility in the state, said a DED-sponsored study conducted by Oregon-based Evergreen Engineering.

The consultant company, contracted by the state's Department of Economic Development in October, says booming demand in composite laminate flooring for new homes in the Southeast is a natural market for wood pulp.

That would help fill a market vacuum left by the declining paper products industry, said David Smith, senior process specialist with Evergreen Consulting.

The company, which conducted four studies for DED officials for \$49,000, says it has shared the information with several companies that are considering building new manufacturing facilities.

"One of the reasons why (DED) was interested in retaining us was because of our industry contacts," he said.

Evergreen Engineering was contracted by DED in October to produce a comprehensive profile of the state's forest products industry for \$25,000 and three prospectus papers on specific markets for wood pulp for \$24,000.

DED released the first prospectus this week and will release the others "in the next 45 to 90 days," Kelsey Short, the department's forest products specialist, said.

Smith said the first paper is aimed at recruiting a laminate flooring manufacturer. It recommends that the company build a \$141 million facility.

"There are several locations in the state that would make sense," Smith said. "I

think the Winnfield area would be ideal."

Poised between booming housing markets in Texas, Georgia and Florida, Louisiana is an attractive centralized location, he said.

"It's a big investment, but we think a particularly good investment in Louisiana because it creates a new market for chips to replace the declining market for pulp and paper. It's a definite growth industry."

In 2002, the total hard-surface floor market in the United States was \$7.6 billion and is projected to rise to \$9 billion in 2007 and \$10.4 billion by 2012, according to the study.

"A new plant would yield \$39 million in gross revenue a year before taxes. It would generate a payroll of \$7.4 million a year and employ 58 people on salary and 127 on hourly wages," Smith said.

A wood-chip market would also create a natural incentive for the state's 350,000 small timberland owners to actively manage their timber stands through thinning, Smith said.

"When the pulpwood market is weak, it's hard for the landowner to cover his costs for the thinning. He may not be able to afford it because it costs more to bring loggers in to cut those trees out than he can get for the pulpwood," Smith said.

The Advocate (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)



Thomas Price, Longleaf Chapter Member, honored as ageless hero

Thomas Price spent March 28th counting the number of organizations he participates in. The Oak Grove resident counted 18.

That's the main reason Hattiesburg resident Joe Yore nominated Price for a community involvement award sponsored by BlueCross/BlueShield of Mississippi.

"I just worked with him so long that I know everything about him, and I know he's every involved," Yore said.

Price, 73, was one of 24 Mississippi residents over the age of 65 honored Tuesday at the 2005 Mississippi Ageless Heroes Awards Luncheon.

When Price retired from forestry work in 1986, he said he decided to throw himself into the community.

"A lot of people have shown me good community work is fulfilling," he said.

Price sought that fulfillment head-on. He's active with the AARP, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, the American Legion and the Institute for Learning in Retirement at the University of Southern Mississippi, and the Longleaf Chapter of the MS SAF.

Price builds wheelchair ramps for the elderly through funds he solicited from the Veteran of Foreign Wars and the American

Legion.

Price's wife, Jeanette Price, said his life centers around volunteering. Without it, he would have nothing to do.

"He has so many interest, and he's just so energetic," she said. "It takes a lot to keep him busy."

Price was honored at a luncheon with Hugh Downs, who served as keynote speaker. Downs worked for 60 years as a broadcast journalist on such TV shows as "20/20" and "Today". He retired in 1999. Downs, 84, now travels, writes and flies airplanes.

The Mississippi Ageless Heroes is held annually to recognize senior citizens who strive to better themselves and their communities.

excerpt from Hattiesburg American

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Weak Dollar Expected to Boost Southern Large Tree Prices

ALBANY, Ga.— The plunging value of the U.S. dollar among global currencies is expected to bring a smile to the faces of Southern timberland owners who have struggled through several years of low prices for their best trees.

Marshall Thomas, president of F&W Forestry Services, Inc., a leading Southern forestry management and consulting firm, forecasts higher prices for large pine timber by this fall as a result of the persistent weakness of the U.S. dollar in the world market place.

A weak dollar vs. strong currencies of U.S. trading partners results in lower prices for U.S. goods abroad and higher prices for other country's products here. In the cross-border lumber trade with Canada, for example, a weak U.S. dollar against a strong Canadian dollar is having a sharply negative effect on lumber imports to the U.S. from that country—a big lumber exporter.

Based on the two-year slide of the dollar and his analysis of historic Southern tree price data, Thomas states in the current issue of his firm's newsletter: "I think we can forecast a price rise for pine sawtimber sometime later this year (October 2005) into mid next year (June 2006). Until then I expect prices to remain stable."

Foresters classify sawtimber as older, larger, higher quality trees used to make lumber.

Despite the improved market outlook for lumber-class trees, Thomas said the weak dollar is not expected to bring higher prices for smaller trees classified as "pulpwood," which are used primarily as a fiber source for the pulp and paper industry. Pulpwood tree prices

have been particularly depressed in recent years.

"Pulpwood prices are not responding to the dollar due to the overriding factors of reduced domestic demand and greatly increased domestic supply," Thomas said. "Until the pulp industry recovers and excess supply of pulpwood diminishes, I expect pine pulpwood to stay muted."

F&W, which markets timber and provides other forestry management services to private landowners across the South, keeps close tabs on prices and market conditions through its network of 14 offices in eight states. F&W reports the price information quarterly through its newsletter distributed to clients, subscribers, and the news media.



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International Forest Exits Bareroot Seedling Production To Focus On Container Business; Closes Statesboro Nursery

MOULTRIE, Ga.— International Forest Company (IFCO), a leading independent producer of tree seedlings in the South, has closed its Statesboro, Ga., bareroot nursery and will focus future operations entirely on production of container pine and hardwood seedlings at other locations.

Wayne Bell, IFCO's chief operating officer, said the decision to leave the bareroot seedling business and to close the Statesboro facility was "difficult" but driven by changes in Southern forestry practices and the forest products industry. The Statesboro nursery, which had served timberland owners in Coastal Georgia and South Carolina for more than 20 years, was closed and the site sold following the end of the 2005 shipping season.

"The demand for seedlings has dropped dramatically over the last four years and bareroot seedlings were most affected," Bell said in a letter to customers of the Statesboro facil-

ity. "This drop in demand was created by several factors, including sell-off of industry lands in recent years, lower timber harvest due to mill closures, wood prices and a reduction in the number of trees planted per acre."

Bell said International Forest's container seedling business has expanded even as bareroot seedling demand has declined. The company pioneered the container technology for pine seedlings in this country, notably for longleaf pine that has helped spark a resurgence of the species in the South. Currently, the firm operates container nurseries at Moultrie, Ga., Odenville, Ala. that grow the major Southern pine species and a wide variety of Southern hardwoods.

International Forest Company is a subsidiary of Mobley Greenhouses, Inc., of Moultrie, Ga., a leading grower of vegetable plants and container tree seedlings.

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2005 ANNUAL MEETING CRAWFISH BOIL



The Annual Meeting Crawfish Boil was a success. Jim Walley, Magnolia Chapter, loaded his plate down as Dan Prevost, MSU Student Chapter, wondered if there would be any left for him (pictured above). The crawfish, corn-on-the-cob, and potatoes were a real hit given the cold weather.

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