Environmental Issues Affecting Forestry in Mississippi
2002 Annual Meeting a Success

This year’s annual meeting of the MS SAF was held at the Silverstar Resort and Casino in Philadelphia MS, February 19-21. The theme for the meeting was “Environmental Issues Affecting Forestry in Mississippi.” Meeting attendance was approximately 100, with a good mix of students from both Mississippi State University and Jones Community Junior College.

Speakers for the meeting represented several government agencies and private industry from across the southern region. Mr. James MacClellan from the MS Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was the opening speaker. His topic was forestry and water quality compliance issues, items very pertinent to forestry in MS. A viewing of the New MS Best Management Practices (BMPs) video was presented by Dr. Andy Londo. The video accompanies the 2000 MS BMP manual. Dr. Stephen Grado presented research findings on the values, attitudes and perceptions of forest industry constituency groups. An update on environmental issues affecting the US Forest Service was presented by Mr. Jeff Long from the USFS in Jackson.

The afternoon session changed gears somewhat with a presentation by Mr. Bill Banzhaf, Executive VP of the SAF. Mr. Banzhaf updated the group on activities in the National SAF office. We were very fortunate to have Bill come and speak to our organization and we thank him for his time and interest in the MS SAF. Ms. Deborah Baker with Georgia-Pacific in Atlanta GA., and Mr. 

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Comments from the Chair

The first quarter of 2002 has seen some exciting things happen for forestry in Mississippi. The legislature, after a conference, has passed the Mississippi Forest Inventory and Strategic Planning Act of 2002 (SB2922), which creates the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory. The duties of the Institute are to facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide forest resources inventory for a sustainable forest-based economy on or before July 1, 2004 and create a report that analyzes the inventory by January 1, 2005.

The MS SAF annual meeting held in February was successful from both an attendance and financial standpoint. We now have money in the treasury to carry out the activities of this organization for the coming year. I want to thank those that attended the annual meeting in Philadelphia and to recognize Andy Londo and the rest of the Loblolly Chapter for the great job they did in making this meeting a success. Next year's annual meeting will be held in Tupelo and will be hosted by the Northeast Chapter. Make your plans to attend this meeting next February.

Jason Kutack is stepping down as the MS SAF business manager after over 10 years of service. Jason will stay busy as the Vice-President of national SAF, preparing to take over the presidency next year. Taking Jason's place will be Karen Brasher, who will be the MS SAF Newsletter and Web Page Editor, and Tammy Coleman, who will be our Business Manager.

This month the MS SAF will be bringing all the past files of the organization to Mississippi State University library where they will be archived. This is an important move in helping to keep the past history of the MS SAF in an organized manner in a central location. Steve Grado is overseeing this operation. If any of you have historical documents relating to the MS SAF that you feel should be archived, please contact Steve or me.

The SAF national convention will be held October 5-9 in Winston-Salem, NC. This year's theme is "Forests at Work." There will be stimulating dialogue on what is a "working" forest and over 100 hours of technical and scientific sessions. There will be corporate presentations on forestry-related products and services incorporating the latest in technology and science. You can learn about recent innovations in field applications directly from their creators. Winston-Salem is only a day's drive from Mississippi and has many attractions for the whole family. Let's have a large contingent of Mississippians at this year's convention.

Lastly, I encourage each of you to help MS SAF grow by recruiting a new SAF member, or bringing someone whose membership has lapsed back into the Society of American Foresters. For every new regular member or two student members you recruit between January and December 2002, you get a $5 SAF gift certificate. Plus, you and the members you recruit will receive an SAF coupon book filled with discounts for products and services from SAF and other forestry suppliers and organizations.

Comments from the Vice Chair

Springtime is known as the vernal equinox, but I equate this splendor as a visceral event. Something inside just tells me to enjoy the beauty and actually appreciate it. One caution to note about Springtime is that I encountered a rather large Cottonmouth the other day in Simpson County. I took a digital picture of it and it wouldn't focus. I guess I was shaking too bad. I must admit that it has been my experience in Forestry that the snakes are always out no matter what the season is!

Our SAF had a splendid meeting in Philadelphia, MS, and the Choctaw Indians were gracious hosts. Participation in these meetings provides invaluable knowledge and networking contacts to all the attendees. I sure enjoyed meeting our SAF Executive Vice-President, Bill Banzhaf.
During 2001, the MS Society was lead by Dr. Ian Munn, chairman, Preston Padgett Vice-Chairman, Dr. Debbie Gaddis, and Dr. Don Grebner, Treasurer. The Executive Council met four times last year. Last year’s activities and accomplishments were as follows:

A. 2001 Annual Meeting
The Annual Meeting was held in Oxford, Mississippi and was hosted by the Four Lakes Chapter. Meeting Chair Tim Traugott reported a successful meeting netting approximately $13,000.00. The Silent Auction raised $3,600. Around 130 people attended the meeting.

B. Policy Committee
Chairman Bob Daniels led his committee in producing the publication, “A Professional View of Forestry Issues in Mississippi.” “Professional View” is the policy book for MS SAF and includes Position statements on the following topics: Private Property Rights, Herbicide Use in Forest Management, Estate Taxes, Clearcutting, and Regeneration Harvesting and Forest Health on Mississippi’s National Forest. Copies of “A Professional View” have been mailed to all members of the Mississippi Legislature, appropriate State Agency Heads, and Mississippi’s Congressional delegation. Any member may suggest an issue for policy development. The Policy Committee would like to have a member representing each chapter. Volunteers may contact Bob Daniels for details.

C. MSU Advisory Committee
Gerald Moore served his last year as the MS SAF’s representative on the MSU Department of Forestry Advisory Committee. He attended the Advisory Committee meetings and reported at each Executive Council Meeting. Les Shelby will replace Gerald for a 3-year term.

D. MS Wildlife Federation
Steve Emerson served as MS SAF’s representative on the MS Wildlife Federation (WF). The MWF had a year of change, losing its Executive Director who was replaced by Cathy Shropshire.

E. Business Manager
Jason Kutack served as Business Manager, controlling the MS SAF’s finances and serving as the Magnolia Forester editor for the past 10 years. Jason announced his retirement effective in 2002. Dr. Munn and his committee initiated a search for business manager replacements. Several applicants were identified and all were evaluated by the committee appointed by Dr. Munn. The position was split into two separate components. Mrs. Tammy Coleman will serve as the MS SAF Business Manager and Mrs. Karen Brasher will serve as the Magnolia Forester editor and Web Page Editor.

F. Leadership Training
Leadership training was provided to statewide leaders at the first Executive Committee Meeting. Chair Ian Munn, 2000 Chair Jim Walley, Bob Daniels, and Councilman Jason Kutack presented the training. Debbie Gaddis attended the SAF Leadership Academy in Nebraska. She reported the experience was very productive and worthwhile. Every new officer should attend if at all possible.

G. Forestry in Mississippi Video Project
Dr. Ian Munn spearheaded efforts to fund and develop an educational video on Forestry in Mississippi based on a similar project in Louisiana. He was able to obtain commitments for part of the cost of the video, but was not able to generate enough funding to proceed. The project is on hold until additional funding can be found.

H. National Council Officers
Jason Kutack reported on the Council meetings as the Mississippi/Louisiana/Texas Council member. Mississippi holds the honor of having two Mississippians representing them in the national SAF. Don Bell was elected as our new Council member. Don has already reported on several items he wishes to focus on as our representative. Jason Kutack was elected as the new President-elect of the Society of American Foresters and will serve as the national President in 2003.

I. MS Society Website
The MS SAF website was developed and put on the world wide web. Karen Brasher, Newsletter Editor, will assume responsibility for keeping the web site current.

J. Awards and Honors
Golden Members of the MS Society in 2001 recognized for 50 years of SAF membership were Oliver H. Baumann, E.C. Burkhardt, James W. Burnham, J. A. Q. Haynes, Donald E. Jameson, Leslie J. Johnson, and Oscar Tissue, Jr. The Outstanding Young Forester Award was received by Charles Coker.
**Magnolia**

The last meeting of the Magnolia Chapter was on Feb. 27 in which Dr. Glenn Hughes of the MS Ext. Service spoke concerning his recent trip Australia. We had a good turn out and got off to a good start for the year.

**Capitol**

Our first 2002 program begins on Friday July 19th. John Gwaltney has invited us on a tour of Forestry Suppliers, Inc. operations in Jackson. We will meet at the Ag and Forestry Museum at 12:00 noon for lunch and carpool to the warehouse. 1 hour CFE Credit. Lunch is provided if you pre-register at 601-857-2284.

Mark your calendars for our two other programs: Les Shelby and E. C. Burkhardt will host a Hardwood Management Tour on October 11th at Gaddis Four Lakes.

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**CHAPTER NEWS**

**Four Lakes**

On February 26, 2002, 24 members and guests met in the conference room of the Grenada Lake Field Office of the US Corps of Engineers. Hollis Ishee presented a special presentation plaque, prepared by Tim Traugott, in honor of Mr. Burton Hankins life long career commitment to forestry in our area and in the State of Mississippi to Mrs. Burton Hankins, who along with her son Lee, and his wife were present to accept this special presentation. Mrs. Hankins expressed her thanks to the chapter and wished her husband could still be here to accept this plaque.

The planned meetings for our chapter for this calendar year were announced by Chairman Kirkland as follows:

- February 26, 2002
- April 18, 2002
- June 20, 2002
- August 15, 2002
- October 24, 2002
- December 5, 2002

Next, Chairman Kirkland spoke on several special projects dealing with education and activities for membership. He stressed to the chapter of how we can try to get more members involved, maybe by having some fun activities, such as golfing, fishing, etc. We need young and old foresters and as many as possible to get more involved on a local level. We run into people everyday, and we need to have something to get them interested in joining our society. Chairman Kirkland asked us to try to come up with some special projects and let him know our ideas.

Concerning our membership drive, Chairman Kirkland explained that our chapter has 38 national members, which is approximately one half of our chapter membership. He encouraged all members to become national members and it was decided by the chapter to bring a guest to our next meeting.

Don Bell made a motion to keep the Silent Auction Funds from the December Christmas meeting in our chapter and not send the funds to the Foresters Fund. The motion was seconded by Tom Vigour and the motion passed unanimously. Also, Mr. Bell asked for our chapter to send some funds to the Student Chapter at Mississippi State University to help them go to Winston-Salem, NC to be recognized as a top Chapter.

Discussion was also held regarding our Chapter sending school teachers in our area to the Teachers Conservation Workshop to be held this summer. Motion was made by Mike Wiseman and seconded by Loyd Young for our chapter to send two teachers to the Conservation Workshop this summer. The motion passed unanimously.

**Mississippi Society of American Foresters Chapter Chairs**

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<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>Four Lakes</td>
<td>Neil Kirkland</td>
<td>662.983.4903</td>
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<td>Magnolia</td>
<td>Jody Phillips</td>
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<td>Capitol</td>
<td>Stephen Dickey</td>
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<td>Northeast</td>
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<td>Broadleaf</td>
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<td>Loblolly</td>
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<td>Homochitto</td>
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<td>601.587.1125</td>
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<td>Longleaf</td>
<td>Charles Graham</td>
<td>228.392.5632</td>
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The Longleaf Chapter began 2001 with a meeting at the USFS District Office in Wiggins, MS and held regular meetings with good attendance throughout the year. Randy Watkins served as Chair, Andy Wolgemuth as Vice-Chair, and Mark Anderson served as Secretary/Treasurer.

MSU Student Chapter

On January 8 & 15, 2002, the Student Chapter sponsored a student to attend an extension short course titled "Timber Tax Fundamentals Workshop." From February 19-21, 2002, members of the Student Chapter attended the MSAF Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, MS. The students sponsored an exhibit of chapter and MSU College of Forest Resources' activities. Mr. Brian Berryman, MSU Student Chapter President, was awarded the MSAF Student Chapter Leadership Award.

On February 23, 2002, the Student Chapter held their spring field day at Dorman Lake on the Starr Forest to prepare for the 2002 Annual Southern Forestry Schools Conclave. Approximately 30 students attended. Technical and physical events were held. Technical events included DBH estimation and compass & pacing. Physical events included chain throwing, knife & axe throwing, pole felling, men and women's cross cut sawing, log rolling, and speed chopping. In addition, a catfish fry was held for Chapter members.

On February 26, 2002, the Student Chapter sponsored Eagle Scout Matt McCann of Troop 8, Macon, MS, at the Pushmataha Council Annual Banquet held at the Bost Center on the MSU campus. The Chapter Vice-President Kevin Burnette awarded the sponsorship.

From March 14-17, 2002, 11 members of the Chapter attended the Southern Forestry Schools Annual Conclave at Camp Tyler located outside Whitehouse, Texas. This year's conclave was hosted by Texas A&M University. Kevin Parker, Senior forestry student, placed 2nd in the speed chopping competition and 3rd in pole felling.

On April 11, 2002, members of the Student Chapter sponsored Project Learning Tree for the Third Grade at Overstreet Elementary School in Starkville, MS. "Tree Factory" lessons were presented to numerous classes. In addition, students are participating in a writing competition on "What the Forest Means to Me." A certificate and ten dollars will be awarded to the best essay. Members in attendance included Kevin Burnette, Brian Berryman, Jessica Smith, and Chapter advisor Dr. Don Grebner.

Northeast

The Northeast Chapter will have a meeting on April 24. The speaker will be Mathew Miller of the Nature Conservancy. We will have a meal and discuss the 2003 state meeting.

Broadleaf

The Broadleaf Chapter was active during 2001, hosting meetings on ethics, the Ftler Managed Forest, and other topics. As always, they staggered the locations of their meetings to range along the North-South axis of their geographic area in order to make the meetings accessible. Ken Cline served as Chair, Tommy Walker as Vice-Chair, and Tim Evans as Secretary-Treasurer. The next meeting of the Broadleaf Chapter is on April 25th with guest speaker Mr. Grady Braggford, Business Manager, Industrial Chemicals for Archwood Protection. The topic of Mr. Braggford's presentation is the future of CCA (Chromated Copper Arsenate) and wood preservation for industrial and residential use.

Loblolly

The Loblolly Chapter would like thank everyone for making the 2002 Annual MS SAF meeting such a success. The broad diversity of speakers created considerable discussion among attendees.

Twenty members of the Loblolly Chapter had a meeting at the City Bagel Cafe in Starkville on April 3 for a program on forestry best management practices (BMPs).

Future activities include support of the Oktibbeha County Forestry Conservation Day this September and a meeting this summer at the Choctaw County Lake to tour the U.S. Forest Service facility and grounds.

Homochitto

The Homochitto Chapter held 3 meetings in 2001. This chapter has been in abeyance for several years, and volunteers worked to revive the chapter. Attendance has gradually increased throughout 2001. Chad Smith served as Chair and Tom Corkern served as Secretary/Treasurer.

Farms near Bolton (2 hrs CFE). An dinner meeting is scheduled for December 5th in Brandon. "A Walkabout Down Under (Australian Forestry)" will be presented by Stephen and Susan Dicke (1 hr CFE).

This year's program committee was Joe Clayton, Les Shelby, Rick Olson, and Stephen Dicke.
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 the single most important contribution to the visibility 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.

There is a large number of field foresters who should be recognized for their talent and accomplishments. These deserving individuals can be found in all regions of the U.S. Using presidential prerogative, 11 members - one from each of the 11 SAF districts - will be selected to receive an outstanding field forester achievement award in 2002. This will assure that each region of the U.S. will be able to recognize an outstanding field forester.

**Timeline for Selection**

All nominations to select a Distr. XI 2002 Field Forester Achievement regional winner must be submitted to Don Bell by May 15, 2002. Selection will be finalized and forwarded to the national office by June 15 along with each recipient’s biographical information, a b/w photo and the nomination letter with reasons for selection.

Recipients will be notified by August 1 to have adequate time to make plans to attend the National Convention for the ceremony.

Past Mississippi Outstanding Field Foresters are Les Shelby and Malone Buchanan.

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The Policy Scoreboard will be a regular report in the Magnolia Forester on Policy Committee activities. In this issue, five new position statements recently approved by the Executive Committee are presented. These positions are published for members to review. We solicit your comments. Please express your opinion on any or all of the positions by sending an email with your comments to the Policy Committee at bobd@ext.msstate.edu or call 662-325-3151.

**POLICY SCOREBOARD**

**SIXTEENTH SECTION FORESTLAND MANAGEMENT**

**Position**

Forest is the predominant use of sixteenth section lands in Mississippi. It is the position of the Mississippi Society of American Foresters that Mississippi sixteenth section lands in forest use be managed to provide the maximum income possible for local school districts within the multiple use concept of management. Trustees of sixteenth section lands should strongly consider managing the forestlands in their care to increase school incomes. Also, Trustees should consider that sixteenth section lands in other marginal uses could provide greater income if placed in managed forest. The MSAF recommends that the Mississippi Forestry Commission develop a comprehensive inventory of all Mississippi’s sixteenth section forestlands to facilitate better management planning and increased income for local schools.

**Background**

The public forestlands of Mississippi include "Sixteenth Section" forests. The origins of sixteenth section lands date from the earliest days of statehood in the 1830s. These lands have been designated in the public trust "for the support of public education". According to the office of Mississippi’s Secretary of State, in 1998-99 there were a total of 673,106 acres in sixteenth sections statewide. Lands are classified in one of nine categories, including “Forest Land”. Forests are the dominant land classification of Mississippi’s sixteenth sections.

The sixteenth section forestlands are managed by the local Board of Education with assistance from the Mississippi Forestry Commission for the purpose of providing funds to support local schools. The lands may also be leased to private contractors for “fair market value”. In 1999, 79 percent of all sixteenth section leases were more than 16 years in length.

According to the Mississippi Forestry Commission’s latest figures, there are 438,118 acres of forest on sixteenth section lands in Mississippi. From 1993 to 2001, there were an average of 189 timber sales per year on an average of 15,472 acres and the revenues averaged $15.4 million annually. The MFC is currently preparing the first detailed statewide inventory of sixteenth section forestlands.

**FIRE MANAGEMENT**

**Position**

It is the position of the Mississippi Society of American Foresters that fire is an essential forest management tool. The use of fire should always be a planned event applied in a responsible manner by qualified professionals. The continued health and sustainability of certain natural ecosystems depends on the application of prescribed fire. Fuel management strategies as developed by private and public agencies are essential for the protection of property as well as for public safety. We recognize increasing difficulties with smoke management and growing populations. Operators and responsible forestry agencies are encouraged to cooperate so environmental and societal impacts are minimized.

**Background**

Fire is a natural event. It is responsible for much of the diversity in our forests. When allowed to occur naturally, it may drastically alter ecosystems. The exclusion of fire will result in an excessive buildup of fuels, which makes suppression more difficult, expensive and dangerous. Exclusion should not be confused with suppression, which is essential at certain times and in certain locations to protect property as well as wildlife habitat. When applied responsibly, fire can be used to produce specific, desired results in a natural, economical manner. The planned suppression of wildfire is necessary to protect lives and property. Controlled fire is a valuable tool for wildfire hazard reduction as well as forest management.

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Position
The Mississippi Society of American Foresters encourages and supports all efforts to assess Mississippi's forests as a source of increased economic development and to attract new forest industry to the state. MSAF encourages economic development organizations to promote forest management and reforestation as a means of local economic development and seeks a partnership with all economic development organizations in Mississippi for the purpose of cooperation to realize additional forest-based economic development for Mississippi.

Background
According to the most recent US Forest Service forest survey, Mississippi has 18.5 million acres of commercial forestland. This represents 61 percent of the state's land and indications are that more land is being planted to trees from marginal agriculture annually.

The forest products manufacturing sector is the largest manufacturing sector in Mississippi and provides 1 in 4 manufacturing jobs or employs approximately 70,000 workers. These workers earn approximately $5,000 per year above the average manufacturing wage in Mississippi.

In recent years Mississippi has experienced increasing markets for standing timber products and many academic studies project sustained or increasing demand for Mississippi's timber products in the future. In addition, technological innovations in forest products manufacturing are developing that will use smaller trees in new ways to make better forest products for the future. New facilities will be built to manufacture these products and Mississippi should be positioned to capitalize on these developments. As states east of Mississippi experience rapid population growth in the future, it is likely that timber harvest pressure will shift westward toward Mississippi.

The Mississippi Forestry Commission exists to assist landowners in forest management and to protect the state's forests from fire and other threats. The Mississippi Development Authority and local economic development organizations assist industrial prospects to identify areas for new plant locations but the goals of these organizations have little in common. More coordination between these and other organizations can support forest-based economic development.

Forest-based economic development can bring needed high-quality jobs to rural communities and local organizations of forest owners already exist to provide raw materials for the manufacturing process. These organizations should be harnessed to aid in the economic development efforts.
Position
The Mississippi Society of American Foresters supports the establishment, policing and continued strengthening of Mississippi's Forester Registration Law. MSAF further believes that the Forester Registration Law is beneficial to the public and individuals who seek the services of a competent forester. The Code of Ethics established under the law is effective in governing the professional conduct of those persons registered under the law and helps assure just and honorable professional and human relationships, mutual confidence and respect, and competent service to society.

Background
The practice of forestry is a complex discipline and requires certain minimum standards of professional education, experience and training to manage Mississippi's forests. Forestry is vitally important to the Mississippi economy. Values associated with forests (i.e., products, recreation, wildlife, etc.) should be managed in a way that will enhance and sustain those values in the future. The Mississippi Forester Registration Law of 1977 was established as a service to the public. The law recognizes that, in order to benefit and protect the public and its forest resources, no person (public or private) shall practice or offer to practice forestry as a registered forester for compensation unless that person is duly registered or unless that person is specifically exempted under the law.

Position
The Mississippi Society of American Foresters strongly encourages the multiple use concept of forestland management. Multiple use management seeks to manage land to provide for a variety of forest benefits over time, e.g. water, wildlife, timber, and recreation.

Background
Forests occupy 18.5 million acres in Mississippi. As the state's population grows, demands on forestlands for goods and services are increasing. Conflicts over forestland uses have begun to surface in Mississippi in recent years. Examples include the conflict over the management of the former University of Mississippi forestlands in southeast Mississippi and objections to timber harvesting on National Forest properties by local preservation interests in some areas of the state.

An exclusive land use is one for which an area is reserved and managed for one purpose, with other managed uses excluded. The more acres are designated for exclusive uses, the fewer acres may be available for the multiple benefits that forests provide.

The multiple use philosophy of land management is to provide the largest sum of social, economic and other important benefits to the greatest number of citizens. The multiple use principle of forest management helps assure that the supply of forestlands for recreation, timber, watershed, wildlife habitat and the other benefits will be available to forest owners and citizens at large.
Doug Stinson, a Cowlitz County tree farmer, says he’s not big on federal subsidies. But he’ll surely accept a check from an unprecedented $100 million fund Congress plans to approve for owners of America’s small, private forestlands.

After all, he says, think of the benefits everyone else gets from his family’s 1,000 acres of Douglas firs, western red cedar and red alders on the Cowlitz River. “Clean water, clean air, carbon storage, aesthetics,” said Stinson, chairman of the Washington Tree Farm Committee. “All that is really pretty much taken for granted.” Congress intends to set aside federal dollars to help smaller, private forestland owners pay for environmental projects on their lands, including habitat, soil, water, air-quality and timber improvements. More modest programs have come and gone each year, but the new fund is much larger and will be guaranteed over the next six years.

The biggest winners in the bill are the growers of row crops, such as wheat and corn. But owners of smaller, private forestland -- who generally own 1,000 acres or less -- scored unusual victories. Some could be reimbursed by the federal government for as much as 75 percent of their expenses on land projects, including money spent on expert advice from professional foresters.

Also for the first time, owners of the small, private forestlands would have access to a $9 billion pool of conservation money that had been reserved for row-crop farmers and other more traditional agriculture interests.

Taxpayers for Common Sense, a watchdog group, grumbled about the size and scope of the forestry provisions, as well as a lack of objective guidelines for how the Agriculture Department doles out the money. They also worry about how state officials and other local interests will determine how to spend their shares of the $100 million fund, said policy analyst Aileen Roder.

Some environmentalists, on the other hand, declared victory on forestry legislation because Congress scrapped a provision they claimed would have encouraged more logging on federal lands. Others expressed concern about the $100 million fund. Scott Faber, spokesman for Environmental Defense, says the quality of advice landowners will get from foresters and the merits of the projects they recommend will vary widely. He says some hearts, and consequently tax dollars, won’t be in the right place.

Private landowners should pay for these projects on their own, he adds.

But Michael Goergen, senior director for policy and programs at the Society of American Foresters, which pushed for the aid and whose members stand to win new business, says the money will encourage good stewardship of the land.

Professional foresters, for example, can help landowners manage their property for any goal they choose, such as creating bald-eagle habitat or logging on a small scale, he says.

Might landowners who don’t know much about forestry be hoodwinked by unscrupulous loggers interested only in a profit? “It is a big problem if you don’t have someone that is looking out for you and your heirs,” Goergen said.

The pool of federal money isn’t huge when you consider the nearly 10 million private-timberland owners nationwide. Previous Forest Service reimbursement programs have been popular.
Mississippi’s forest industry (including private landowners, independent harvesters and forest industry) harvested and delivered $1.3 billion worth of forest products to mills and other processors in 2000. The total value of Mississippi’s 2000 timber harvest delivered to the first point of processing (such as a pulpwood yard or sawmill) was $1,304,808,610. This harvest value is 3 percent higher than 1999. The year 2000 was the eighth straight year Mississippi’s timber production value was over $1 billion. Timber was the second most valuable agricultural commodity in 2000. Poultry and eggs was the most valuable with a $1.37 billion value, timber was second at $1.30 billion and cotton was third at $483 million. Mississippi’s forest landowners collected $1 billion for their standing timber in 2000. This is the fourth year the standing value of Mississippi’s timber harvest was over one billion dollars. This estimated value of the logging and transportation sector was $302,918,722.

The harvest volume of pine sawlogs increased significantly by 15.4% and their value increased 12.9%. Pine pulpwood volume remained level with a very slight increase. This ends a three-year decline in the pine pulpwood harvest volume. Pine pulpwood value however decreased 8.1% on lower pulpwood prices in 2000. Pine plywood log volume and value declined about 15% with the closure of some plywood operations in the state. The volume of pine poles increased 9.7 percent.

Hardwood sawlog volume increased 5.4% but value slightly decreased on falling prices in 2000 compared to 1999. Hardwood pulpwood harvest volume increased by 4.5% ending a four-year decline in harvest volume. Hardwood veneer log volume increased 4.4% and value increased 11.5%. Crossties declined in both volume and value in 2000.
Home buyers and consumers are getting closer to picking up the tab for an unusually bitter trade spat between the United States and Canada.

U.S. trade officials moved forward Friday to levy hefty tariffs on Canadian lumber used in home building. That means lumber prices could spike this spring --- good news for Georgia's timber growers, loggers and sawmill operators, but bad news for home buyers. The U.S. Commerce Department on Friday confirmed border duties of about 29 percent on Canadian softwood lumber imports. The tariffs are designed to punish Canadian suppliers for allegedly selling fir, pine and other softwood lumber at unfairly low prices.

U.S. lumber producers have been pushing for the tariffs for nearly a year, saying they've lost revenue and jobs because of Canada's trade practices. Canadian imports are a particularly touchy subject in Georgia, where forestry is one of the largest industries and contributes about $20 billion a year to the state's economy.

"Right now, my 300 employees have a good chance of keeping their jobs," said Rusty Wood, a Georgia sawmill owner who spearheaded the fight for tariffs last year.

But the duties could add $1,500 to the price of an average new home and possibly knock 450,000 prospective home buyers out of the market, according to a consumer group led by Atlanta-based Home Depot and the National Association of Home Builders.

Buyers of manufactured homes could feel the increase most. The average price of a manufactured home in Georgia is about $43,000.

"Even a $1,000 increase can affect people qualifying for a loan on a manufactured home," said Stephanie Hutcherson of the Georgia Manufactured Housing Association.

But the lumber duties can't be imposed until the U.S. International Trade Commission approves them May 6. There's a chance the United States and Canada could reach a trade agreement before then and head off the tariffs.

Canadian officials, who deny that illegal government subsidies exist, met with their U.S. counterparts intensively this week to negotiate a deal, but talks fell through late Thursday evening.

Canadian International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew said Friday that Canada would challenge the tariffs under provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Canadian firms have been allowed to post bonds to cover the proposed U.S. penalties, but if Friday's decision is approved next month, those companies will have to begin making the payments in cash.

The United States imports $6 billion a year in softwood lumber from Canada, or about one-third of the U.S. supply.
When it comes to investments, most Mississippi landowners feel more secure with their money in wood chips rather than blue chips.

A recent survey by Mississippi State University’s Forest and Wildlife Research Center and Social Science Research Center asked landowners about their acceptable rates of return for stocks, bonds, and other financial instruments compared to trees planted as an investment.

More than 800 individuals who own at least 20 acres of land and have harvested timber during the last five years were interviewed.

"Landowners were asked the lowest rates of return they considered acceptable for three non-forestry investments and for trees planted for harvest after five, 15 and 25-years," said Steve Bullard, project investigator and professor of forest economics. "Of the 829 interviewed, only 98 believed forestry investments were more risky than non-forestry investments."

Funded by the Mississippi Forestry Commission, the survey indicated that the majority of landowners in Mississippi find forest investments lasting at least 15 years to be competitive with the returns they receive from stocks, bonds and mutual funds. The landowners surveyed indicated that the overall average rate of return considered acceptable for stocks, bonds and mutual funds is 10.8 percent.

In comparison, their acceptable average rates for forest investments before adjusting for inflation are 8 percent for five years, 11.3 percent for 15 years, and 13.1 percent for 25 years.

The survey indicated that five-year forest investments have lower minimum rates of return than stocks, bonds or mutual funds, while the 25-year return rate of 13.1 percent is higher.

"Our study shows that shorter-term forestry investments are preferred by the state’s landowners—a reflection of the greater risk and uncertainty involved with long time periods," Bullard said. "The study also clearly showed, however, that landowners consider non-commercial benefits of forests in their investment decisions."

Many invest in reforestation because of their desire to be good stewards of the land while earning a competitive return on investment, he added.

For more information on this study, contact Dr. Steve Bullard at 662-325-2781 or e-mail at sbullard@cfr.msstate.edu.
Loy Jones with SmartWood FSC in Tyler Tx. spoke about Sustainable Forestry Initiative and SmartWood Forest Certification. These two speakers generated a great amount of discussion and interest among participants.

Mr. Paul Huffman with Command System Inc. presented some ideas on how technology can improve the safety and efficiency of forestry operations. Bob Daniels presented "Professional Ethics in Forestry" to wrap up the afternoon session. Entertainment following the Awards Banquet was provided by the Choctaw Tribal Dancers.

The Loblolly Chapter would like to thank all those who attended the meeting, along with the speakers, exhibitors, and sponsors for making this meeting such a great success.

Environmental Issues Affecting Forestry in Mississippi
(continued from cover)

A timber management firm run by The Molpus Woodlands Group, based in Jackson, announced the purchase of 36,260 acres in southeast Texas from International Paper Co. for $26.2 million.

The land, known as the Oakhurst Property, is located about 60 miles north of Houston, Texas.

Molpus said the acquisition brings his company’s total holdings in Texas to 202,000 acres.

The property is located near the 145,300 acres the company acquired in December.

The Molpus Woodlands Group is a division of The Molpus Co., which has been involved in the timber industry since 1905. The businesses have 10 offices in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

The Molpus enterprise has shifted its focus over the years from sawmills to timber management and sales.

Cutshall Named MLA Executive Director

The Mississippi Loggers Association has announced that Jason Cutshall is the association’s new Executive Director. Cutshall was MLA’s Public Relations Director and a licensed insurance agent in the association’s subsidiary.

Cutshall is a graduate of Mississippi State University with Master’s degrees in forestry and business administration. He is a Mississippi registered forester. Congratulations Jason!

2002 SAF Award Winners


The Outstanding Young Forester: Randy Watkins

MS-SAF Student Chapter Award: Brian Berryman

Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Andrew W. Ezell

Outgoing President’s Plaque: Dr. Ian A. Munn

Recognition of Election as SAF Fellow: Dr. Bob Daniels

Molpus Woodlands Group Buys Land in East Texas

The Mississippi Loggers Association has announced that Jason Cutshall is the association’s new Executive Director. Cutshall was MLA’s Public Relations Director and a licensed insurance agent in the association’s subsidiary.

Cutshall is a graduate of Mississippi State University with Master’s degrees in forestry and business administration. He is a Mississippi registered forester. Congratulations Jason!
A recently completed Mississippi State report shows just how much of the state’s economy rests in the shade of its vast forestlands.

While it’s well known that forestry is important to the state, most residents may not appreciate that “the more than 18 million acres of forestland in Mississippi means trees cover two-thirds of the state’s land area,” said Ian Munn of the university’s Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

The associate professor of forestry said a center-sponsored study sought “to measure the total economic impact of the $1.3 billion worth of timber products harvested and delivered to mills and manufacturing plants in Mississippi each year.”

Completed by Munn and graduate student James E. Henderson, the project examined the forest industry’s four main sectors: logging, solid wood products, pulp and paper, and wood furniture manufacturing. Employing a computerized database and modeling software, they looked at employment, wages paid, total value of production, and value added through the manufacturing process.

Using 1998 data—the most recent available—they found the forestry/forest products industry:

- Accounts for about 13 percent of Mississippi’s total economic activity, contributing $14.8 billion in total industrial output and generating $6.5 billion in value-added income, and
- Employs more than 151,000 Mississippians.

“These employees hold 10 percent of all jobs in the state and receive $4.2 billion in wages,” Munn said. “Also, the average income for forestry and forest products jobs is $29,065, or $5,820 more than the average wage for Mississippians, in general.”
Core Values - One of the characteristics of society is that groups assemble around shared principals or values. The power of those "shared values" is when they foster unity in sometimes fairly diverse groups. These "values" are also powerful when they are communicated to others.

A discussion of "core values" within SAF is exactly what Council would like to engage the membership in over the next 6 months or so. You may have read President David Smith's op ed piece on Core Values in the January Forestry Source. So what are Core Values? They are the basic values common to the majority of our membership - the core values of professional forestry. Of course we all came to forestry in different ways and for different reasons and we have had different professional and educational experiences. But, what do we value in common? By defining and articulating these values we begin recognizing the unity in our very diverse group and others gain an understanding of our principles.

Last year, Council adopted a core value on sustainability. This value was communicated by National office staff in a number of cases on Capitol Hill when testifying on the Farm Bill and other legislation. These fundamental principles are powerful communication tools.

Council and others around the country, using input from the Critical Issues Forum at the '96 Convention in Memphis, drafted a list of core values that we would offer to the membership for discussion this year. They are:

- Forests are a fundamental source of global health and human welfare.
- Forests must be sustained to enhance long-term human well-being through simultaneously meeting environmental, economic, and community aspirations and needs.
- Sound forest management, regardless of ownership, forest type or purpose, can only be attained through applying knowledge based on science and practical experience within the context of appropriate public policy.
- Professional foresters serve society through shared values, specialized knowledge, personal integrity, ethical behavior, accountability, and respect for individuals.

Hopefully these expressions are a starting point for the discussion. Read them over, discuss them with your colleagues, edit, amend, add as you see fit. Each Society Chair will be soliciting responses from the membership and will be communicating those through SAF's National Convener process.