



Magnolia FORESTER

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HEALTHY FORESTS

An Initiative for Wildfire Prevention and Stronger Communities

President Bush urged the Senate to act quickly on legislation that would ease restrictions on the management of forests and grasslands that are susceptible to wildfires. The House passed its version of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 in May by a 256-170 vote.

"As this year's fire season progresses, we must equip Federal land managers with the tools they need to protect lives and communities, restore forest health and safeguard habitat and watersheds," the President said.

The Restoration Act is the latest move in the administration's Healthy Forest Initiative that was first introduced last year, when more than 7 million acres of American forests across fifteen states were scorched in the worst wildfire season in modern times. It sets a goal to thin trees and clean underbrush from 20 million acres, mostly in the Western United States.

President Bush said that the bill was "good, common-sense environmental policy." He explained that it is possible to prevent fires by managing forests with controlled burns, clearing underbrush, and thinning the densest areas most vulnerable to fires and insect infestation.



"And it is the consensus of scientists, wildlife biologists, forestry professionals, and firefighters -- the very people who have dedicated their lives to keeping our forests healthy and our community safe," the President added, describing the bill as sound science.

The Forest Restoration bill prioritizes forest management in areas closest to rural communities and where there is the greatest risk of environmental damage. It will also ease restrictions that have prevented removal of trees and brush in the past, allowing people to plan forest management projects for nonprofit, profit, or stewardship groups.

"For too many years, bureaucratic tangles and bad forest policy have prevented foresters from keeping our woodlands healthy and safe," the President said. "The cost to America has been too high, in the loss of lives and property, and in the destruction of woodlands and wildlife."

The United States Forest Service has estimated that approximately 195 million acres of America's forests are susceptible to fire and insect damage.

(The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on July 23, 2003.) *Talon News*

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Comments from the Chair

"When you get to a fork in the road, take it."

"You can observe a lot by watching."

"It ain't over 'till it's over."

"Just because you're smart doesn't mean you're not stupid."

"It's déjà vu all over again."

"We'll do alright if we can capitalize on our mistakes."

Yogi Berra's simple wit and humor always tickles me. His aphorisms are now known as Yogiism. A sense of humor is important to me for many reasons. The health benefits are undisputed and it makes life more enjoyable to interact with people that are amusing. Bob Hope lived to be 100 years old and I'll bet humor was a huge factor. So laugh a little more!

Twenty years ago when I was a freshman at the University of Southern Mississippi, I had a roommate named Brad Bradley. He was a boxer, a bow hunter, and a Redneck. I'm talking a real Redneck! He and I got along very well. He wore a long-sleeved, black flannel shirt in the summertime when we would take dates out to go dancing. He also slept in this flannel shirt and went to class in this same shirt. Brad told me that he knew I was a Redneck too when he saw pictures of the original Bigfoot Monster Truck on my wall instead of pictures of girls. My wife says jokingly that I'm still a Bubba, but I inform her that I am now a refined Bubba. I've got college as they

say. Yeah, maybe she's right, but the many pictures in my home now are family pictures with my two children. Nothing in life is better than having a good family life. A good career is also wonderful and there is a synergy between the two.

My next favorite item is the many friends that I have made in Mississippi and elsewhere. What better way to cultivate meaningful relationships than in this professional society? Inactive members are missing out just a little. So don't be a Bubba, join and participate. Oh, and bring your 4x4, cause I still like it! And I like the old kind of 4x4 with the stick in the floorboard, not the wimpy button on the dash. My cousins always kidded me as a teenager that the higher the truck's lift kit the lower the IQ.

Your Mississippi Society of American Foresters (MS SAF) continues to be a professionally relevant institution. Our policy statements are superbly coherent and well done. We have two more for you to read and comment on before a final executive committee vote. The Policy Committee chaired by Dr. Bob Daniels is diligently advancing the Society's credentials.

We recently succeeded in obtaining a foresters fund grant to contribute \$1,000 to the forestry exhibit at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. The museum is impressive, and I am anxious to see the final version of this forestry exhibit.

Your MS SAF continues to be progressive and proactive and it has to be, because as Yogi says, *"You know, the future ain't what it used to be."*

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Comments from ye olde forester

It has been many moons since I “retired” in April 2002, relinquishing the job of business manager/newsletter editor for MS SAF. Since then, five or so quarterly issues of the Magnolia Forester have been published by my successor. Having produced some forty issues since 1988, I still feel lingering sensations of an approaching deadline toward the end of the quarter. And I miss picking up some six hundred or so issues from the printer, taking them home, labeling, zip coding, bundling and bagging them for shipment to my forester friends, the SAF officers and Council and others. As I pressed each label on, I envisioned the faces of all those I knew from past days and wished them well.

As many of you know, on December 6, 2001, I had quadruple bypass open heart surgery, the day before I was scheduled to fly to Bethesda, MD, for my last meeting as SAF Councilman for District XI. I’m still sorry to have missed that. Be that as it may, as SAF Vice President, I shakily made it to the February 2002 Council meeting, after which, upon return home, I participated in 12 weeks of rehabilitation. It was demanding but enabled me to come back to regular workouts every other day by June and to fulfill my responsibilities as SAF Vice President.

On January 1, 2003, I moved up to SAF President. As such, I began a travel schedule to appear at as many state and division annual meetings as possible. As you know, Bill Banzhaf announced his impending departure from SAF in October 2002, and Dave Smith, then SAF President, began preparations for a search for his replacement, setting up a search committee of nine persons with himself as chair. SAF Council appointed Michael Goergen as Interim EVP. To my amazement and to the surprise of nearly everyone, operations and programs proceeded normally: The SAF staff performed magnificently and the search committee screened candidates in an orderly, businesslike manner. With the aid and validation of a search consultant, a selection was made. Michael Goergen was employed with universal acclaim on May 23. He hit the ground running and all are apparently well satisfied with his selection and his performance. I certainly am!

So, to date, as your 2003 SAF President, I have attended the MS SAF Annual Meeting, the KY/TN Meeting at Falls Creek Falls State Park near Pikeville, TN, the CO/WY Annual Meeting in Durago, CO, and the MT/Inland Empire Annual Meeting in Missoula, MT.

Plans to attend several other meetings were thwarted by a life-threatening illness, kidney failure, incurred by my wife, Patsy. As primary care-giver, I stood by for four months as she adjusted to kidney dialysis. Both of

us had to make substantial changes in lifestyle, scheduling, diet, travel, etc. Relatives, church friends and others were very helpful and understanding. We especially appreciated calls, cards, and best wishes of SAF members and friends.

During my no-travel period, I was in constant contact with Wild Acres via e-mail, mail, telephone, and fax. Many important letters, statements, position statements, and decisions were handled by myself and the Executive Committee.

Patsy can now drive to dialysis by herself. To make sure that she can cope, I’ll hang around another couple of weeks and then set up a travel schedule. Tentatively, I plan to attend the West Virginia Division, Allegheny SAF Meeting, the Wisconsin SAF Meeting, the Iowa SAF Meeting and the Southeastern SAF Meeting. There’s a possibility of attending the Hundredth Anniversary of the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources, my Alma Mater, in October.

Then, of course, there’s the **BIG SAF NATIONAL CONVENTION** in Buffalo, New York on October 25-29, 2003. As National President, I’ll have to preside. I’m looking forward to this meeting which may have the largest attendance ever. And I hope that I’ll see many happy, shining faces of Mississippi foresters in the group.

So “shuffle off to Buffalo” and I’ll see you there.

Jay Kutack

President, Society of American Foresters

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A. Foresters Fund Update

A grant for \$1,000 for a permanent forestry exhibit in the MS Museum of Natural Science, initiated by Maurice Mitchell, in conjunction with MFA was awarded to MS SAF. The first \$800 has been received, with the remaining \$200 to be received at the end of the initial stage of the project.

National SAF received \$67,000 in Foresters Fund grant requests, and funded \$30,000.

The Foresters Fund request for the MSU continuing education grant has been rejected according to Amy Vickery. Vickery is the new MSU contact since Alan Brown has left the University.

Don Bell commented that the Foresters Fund has been hit hard by a drop in the stock market. There will be a new Foresters Fund campaign to increase fund level.

B. Annual Meeting

The Broadleaf Chapter is in the early stages of planning the annual meeting. The likely theme for the meeting is "Bottomlands-A Change in Face." The meeting will be geared towards reforestation in bottomlands. A history of bottomlands, reforestation, carbon sequestration, WRP, conservation easements, and land trusts would offer numerous topics for speakers. The Committee felt that the topic was appropriate and could provide a good draw from Louisiana and Arkansas. The Committee expressed an interest in including the Delta National Forest to help draw USFS personnel. It was suggested that we have a point/counter-point type of discussion on Conservation Easements. Conservation easements are cheap, but create many problems for landowners. The proposed date is in March for two days.

C. Financial Report

Currently, there is \$22,433 in the MS SAF account as of June 30. This includes proceeds from the 2003 MS SAF Annual meeting. From January to March, expenses were \$2,500. This included mailings and other expenses related to the Magnolia Forester and the Annual Meeting. We are considering purchasing a certificate of deposit to accrue more interest for the state chapter. Before doing this, we need an estimate of expenses for the year. Grado made a motion to allow Tammy Coleman to investigate CD options, and then purchase a CD. The MS SAF also sent \$1,000 to the SAF leadership academy. The MS SAF reimbursed Daniels for his policy committee/legislative trip to Washington, DC in early June.

Balance as of 1/1/03	\$15,009.00
Revenues	\$16,954.96
Subtotal	\$31,963.96
Expenses	\$ 9,530.43
Balance as of 6/1/03	\$22,433.53

D. Magnolia Forester

Thank you to everyone who has submitted pictures and stories. Requested copies of the last Magnolia Forester are unavailable due to a loss at the mail house. If anyone would like copies, they are available on the web. The mail house will reduce mailing costs for the next issue. Advertising money was greater than expenses for printing and mailing of the last issue.

E. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee met by conference call on July 3. Position statements on the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory (MIFI) and on the Need for Hardwood Forest Management Research were distributed to the Executive Committee. The position statement on MIFI indicates that the MS SAF is in favor of its creation, funding, and operation and puts on record our support for MIFI. The hardwood forest management research statement indicates the need for and importance of hardwood research. The statements have been included in this issue of the Magnolia Forester for your consideration. The Executive Committee has approved adding these position statements to the 10 we already have.

Another position statement for discussion at the Executive Committee meeting concerns the timber severance tax system and support for updating this 60-year old tax code. The Executive Committee invites comments on this issue. The statement will be discussed further by the Executive Committee at a later date. While updating this tax code may not be favored by some, it is important to update this code to fund items such as the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory (MIFI) and the FRDP. The code is out of date. The Executive Committee would like to get comments on this issue from everyone, including MFA. MIFI is important for the growth and future of our industry in this state.

There is a need for current forest inventory in the state. For example, a new plant is looking to move to East Central MS or West Central AL. Alabama has current data from the US Forest Service; however, Mississippi's data is from 1992. To entice new forest industry to the state, we must have current data on file and have it easily accessible. MIFI will address these needs.

Bob Daniels represented the MS SAF at SAF legislative days in Washington, DC. There were thirteen SAF members from across the nation. Daniels suggested that the MS SAF continues sending one state member to this important meeting.

Bob Daniels shared a letter from Larry Oldham who is heading up statewide watershed planning and encouraged MS SAF members to become involved with the watershed

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

forums.

Bob Daniels questioned if a letter had been sent to Jim Sledge concerning the 16th section land inventory and MS SAF's position on this land. It's important that an inventory is done as the Mississippi Forestry Commission needs to know what they have on 16th section lands. Randy Watkins will follow up with Preston Padgett regarding the letter.

Daniels suggested that Chapter Chairs use position statements when possible. It's an election year, and it is important to discuss issues in chapter meetings, and ask candidates their stances/opinions on forestry, forest management, and position statements.

Daniels announced that Joe Spinks from the Four Lakes Chapter is the newest member of the policy committee.

Also, a letter prepared by the SAF and sent to Rep. McGinnis was read on the floor of the House of Representatives and had impact on pending legislation.

E. MS-Wildlife Federation

Steve Emerson shared about the Wildlife Extravaganza scheduled for the first week of August in Jackson. The Executive Committee is interested in a booth at the Wildlife Extravaganza but Steve Emerson indicated that the booths are expensive and you have to have someone man the booth. The MS SAF will also have to get on the list for booth space immediately as the booth spaces fill-up quickly.

F. MSU-Advisory Committee

A summary of findings and actions regarding the accreditation process for the Department of Forestry was distributed. MSU passed accreditation and is in good standing until 2007. Dr. Sam Foster stepped down as Dean of the CFR and Director of the FWRC. Dr. Bob Karr is serving as Interim Dean of the CFR and Interim Director of the FWRC. Discussion ensued as to reasons for his departure. Dr. Doug Richards is assuming the role of Interim Associate Director of the FWRC, and Dr. Steve Bullard will assume the role of Interim Head of Department of Forestry.

There were questions regarding recipients of the Sharp scholarship. Les Shelby researched the matter and found that the Sharp family acquired 16,000 acres of land in Tishomingo county from 1850-1962. In 1962, the Sharp's deeded the property to MSU to fund educational opportunities for the College. The first scholarship was given in 1972. There have been many since then, but there is a concern that these scholarships are going more and more to wildlife (pre-vet) students instead of forestry students. The Sharp family wanted the money to go to forestry students. Since 1996, there have been 40 scholarships in the amount \$392,000 given out. Of these, 21 were given to forestry students and 19 to wildlife students, 4 of which were pre-vet students. The average recipient in forestry received \$10,000, while the average wildlife recipient received \$9,294. Of the 21 forestry recipients, 33% have transferred, dropped out, changed majors, or somehow left the university. A question was raised regarding what happens to the scholarship money when the student withdraws from the CFR. Twenty-one

percent of wildlife students have withdrawn from the CFR. Following the death of the Sharps, the money earned from management of the property is to be used to continue management of the property with the remaining funds to be used for research and scholarships.

Currently, 53% has been used for forestry students. The family indicated that 50% was supposed to be used so the money is still being used as the family desired. Former Dean John Gunter changed the scholarship to be used for all departments, not just forestry.

Les Shelby indicated that he needs more information before addressing this with the forestry advisory committee. Steve Grado suggested that he speak with Dr. Doug Richards regarding the scholarship. It was also suggested that maybe the guidelines need to be examined. It was suggested that Dr. Richards be invited to attend an Executive Committee meeting to address the scholarship before this is put on the agenda for the CFR Advisory Committee. It was also suggested that Shelby contact Rachel Singleton with the CFR.

G. Councilman Don Bell

Councilman Don Bell said we need to continue to get members.

Bell said that he gets a report on what everyone does in the national office. The Executive Vice President is very often in Washington, DC, lobbying for SAF and forestry. SAF is respected in DC.

Bell said the next leadership academy will be held in 2004 and will cost about \$1,000. The MS SAF has already sent them \$1,000.

Bell said we will be able to vote for a new President and he suggested that we vote for John Helms from CA. Helms is from Australia and a former Berkeley Dean.

The national meeting is in Buffalo, NY and Bell asked if the state chapter can help support sending SAF students to national meeting.

Bell commented that there is wording in the code of ethics that needs to be changed. Bell has re-written the code and requested that members sign a referendum to promote a change in the code of ethics.

The Field Forestry award will be awarded in MS.

H. New Business

1. Alan Brown, the MS SAF CFE Coordinator has moved and Daniels made a motion that Andy Ezell assume the role of statewide CFE Coordinator. Motion carried.
2. Daniels suggested that MS SAF team with MFA and Habitat for Humanity in a program called Forests for Humanity. Motion was made for Daniels to endorse MFA to do this. The motion carried.
3. Randy Watkins said that we need to make officer and award nominations. We need an awards committee, or send nominations to Watkins.



CHAPTER NEWS

Four Lakes

The last meeting was held in June at Strawberry Plains where we toured the Mississippi Audubon facility. We then went to Annie's Restaurant in Holly Springs for a meal and a business meeting. We had a reading of the minutes and a Treasurer's report. Old business discussed included an update on scholarships for the Teacher's Conservation Workshop. Since the workshop is full, we sponsored two people already enrolled. Rick Underwood, our Policy Committee Representative asked Chairman Vigour to get someone to replace him. The Chapter voted to have the State (National) start collecting our local chapter dues. Chairman Vigour gave a report for Don Bell on the Council meeting. The Leadership Academy will start being held again next year. It was announced that the USFS would start encouraging it's employees to become SAF members. We were encouraged to sponsor students for the State SAF meeting. Four Lakes Chapter member Charles Dismukes will be on the Ballot for Fellow. The next meeting will be at the Grenada Lake COE office at 5:00 p.m., on August 21, 2003. Attorney J. Lane Greenlee will speak on adverse possession and boundary line law.

Magnolia

The Magnolia Chapter met on April 29th at Masonite Lake. The Chapter enjoyed a catfish dinner and presentation by Haglof, Inc. Haglof Sweden AB manufactures and sells the most complete program for cruising and inventory work in the forest. The

next meeting is planned for September.

Capitol

The next meeting for the Capitol Chapter SAF will be held Tuesday, August 12th at 2:00 pm. Light snacks will be provided by Helena Chemical. Dr. Bob Daniels will give a presentation on Professional Ethics; this course will complete the ethics requirement for Mississippi Registered Foresters. Nominations for 2004 Capitol Chapter officers will also be taken during this meeting.

Northeast

Our last meeting was May 22nd at the MS Forestry Commission Office in Tupelo, MS. Dr. Liam Leightley, Department Head of Forest Products at MSU, was the guest speaker. Dr. Leightley spoke on new research going on in the Department. Our next meeting is scheduled for the first of September. Dr. Bob Daniels will be the guest speaker.

Broadleaf

The Broadleaf Chapter held a meeting on April 24th at Stubb's Restaurant in Yazoo City. Dr. Bob Daniels gave a presentation on forest policy development in Mississippi. He noted the importance of both individuals and the Chapter in taking an active voice in developing the policies and setting the direction of future policy decisions in Mississippi. The next meeting is scheduled for July 31st at Anne Casey's in Greenville. James Cummins, the Executive Director for the Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation will

Mississippi Society of American Foresters Chapter Chairs



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Mr. Ryan Ramsey
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Homochitto

Mr. Chad Smith
601.587.1125

Longleaf

Mr. Ricky McPhail
601.408.2790

CHAPTER NEWS

speak on the Healthy Forests Initiative.

Loblolly

On July 25, we had our first of three planned meetings. We had a great presentation from Preston Padgett on the history of forestry in Mississippi. Coming up on September 13 we are going to have a SAF/MSU CFR Alumni Society Luncheon in conjunction with the the Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show at 12:00 p.m. On October 2, we have planned a tour of the Barge family forest. In case of rain, we have scheduled a rain out date of October 9. We look forward to a presentation of the management philosophies on the family forest.

Homochitto

No activity to report.

Longleaf

The last meeting was in April. Joey Fillingane spoke on the past legislative session. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14. Brian Mitchell is the guest speaker. He is going to speak on GPS applications in forestry. Brian is chief information officer for Precision Forestry in Hattiesburg.

MSU Student Chapter

The MSU SAF Student Chapter assisted the College of Forest Resources and the Dean's Student Council with the organization and operation of the MSU CFR Awards Banquet. During the banquet T. Shane Harrington, MSU SAF Student Chapter President, received the "Outstanding Undergraduate

Student Award" from the Department of Forestry. In addition, the Chapter had the opportunity to recognize Dr. Andrew Ezell as the "Outstanding Forestry Faculty Member," Matt Mallard for "Outstanding Leadership," and Bryan McElroy for "Outstanding Service."

New chapter officers have been elected for the 2003-2004 school year and they are J. Dan Prevost, President; Bryan McElroy, Vice-President; Amanda Mitchell, Treasurer; Rechelle Allen, Secretary; Orlando Ellerby, Service Chair; C. Miles Henderson, Conclave Chair; Wayne Duke, Publicist; Justin Tapp, Social Chair; Bob Harmon, Sergeant of Arms; and Sam Gural, Junior/Senior Representative.

Members of the Student Chapter sponsored Project Learning Tree activities for the Third Grade at the Overstreet School in Starkville. Tree Factory lessons were presented to numerous classes. In addition, students participated in a writing competition on "What the forest means to me." A certificate and ten dollars were awarded to the best overall essay and five dollars to the best essay per room. Eight awards were given out in total.

The MSU SAF Student Chapter donated \$150 dollars to victims of an apartment complex fire. The three students who were recipients of our donation were students in the College of Forest Resources.

JCJC Student Chapter

The JCJC Student Chapter is planning a membership drive for entering freshmen students. New officers will be elected in September. Jeff Keeton will serve as Student Chapter Advisor.

In Memory

Mr. Randle J. Dedeaux, 81, died June 12, 2003 at Stone County Hospital in Wiggins. A resident of Perkinston, Mr. Dedeaux was a member of the First Baptist Church in Perkinston, a retired forestry member, and past member of J.L. Powers Lodge #416. He was also owner of Perkinston Sand and Gravel Company and a member of Gideons International. Mr. Dedeaux was preceded in death by his wife, Zettie Bond Dedeaux and his parents J.N. and Ruby Dedeaux. He is survived by two sons, John R. and wife Clarice Dedeaux of Perkinston, Edwin K. and wife Marily Dedeaux of Jackson; and three grandchildren, Leah, Laura, and Timothy Dedeaux.

Randle was a golden member of the Longleaf Chapter.



NATIONAL SAF NEWS

USDA Partners with Foresters to Assist Forest Landowners

The US Department of Agriculture announced today a cooperative partnership with the Society of American Foresters that will increase options available to landowners seeking forestry assistance.

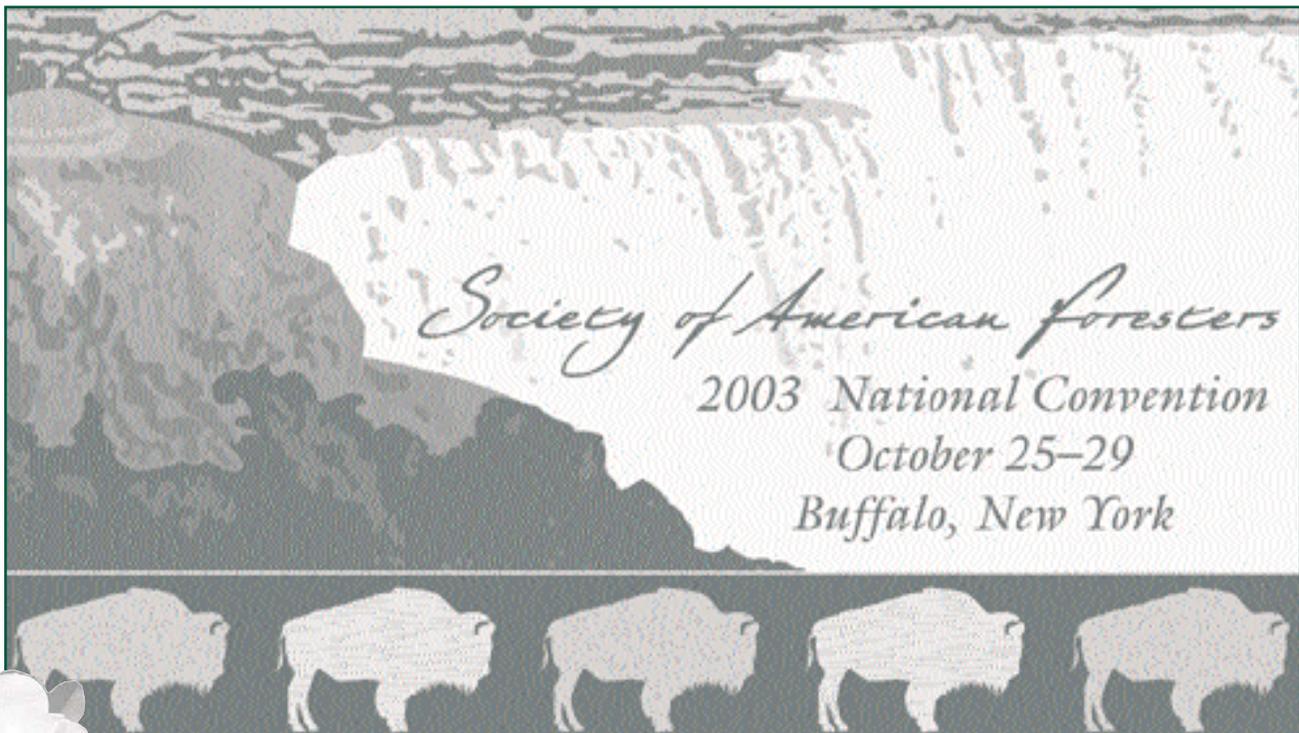
USDA and SAF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that officially recognizes that a person who is a Certified Forester according to the standards set by SAF also meets the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) competency standards for providing assistance in the areas of forestry and agroforestry. The agreement recognizes that SAF can recommend CFs to USDA for consideration as Technical Service Providers as required in the 2002 Farm Bill's conservation programs.

"Although this agreement solidifies a mutually beneficial relationship between NRCS and SAF, the agreement benefits landowners most of all," says Michael T. Goergen Jr., SAF's executive vice-president and CEO. "This agreement will allow the Society's Certified Foresters to be more efficiently recognized for NRCS certification as Technical Service Providers so they can deliver timely and expert forestry advice and recommendations to private landowners and others."

The 2002 Farm Bill expanded the availability of technical assistance to private landowners by encouraging the use of third parties--called Technical Service Providers (TSP)--to assist the USDA in delivering conservation technical assistance services to farmers, ranchers, and others. Landowners may use either NRCS employees or an outside party who is certified as a TSP for help in developing and implementing conservation practices. If they choose to use a TSP, NRCS will reimburse the landowner for some or all of the costs of the TSP's services, provided the landowner and TSP follow guidelines outlined by NRCS.

The MOU does not exclude SAF members who are not CFs from providing technical services. However, having the CF credential will move CFs more efficiently through the TSP certification process.

The signing ceremony was held at the USDA's Washington office on July 17. In addition to Goergen, signatories of the MOU will be Mark Rey, USDA under secretary of natural resources and environment, and Jessica Strother, a member of the SAF Certification Review Board, which has oversight for the Certified Forester program.



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 by sending an email with your comments to the Policy Committee at bobd@ext.msstate.edu or call 662-325-3151.

This month's policy scoreboard could be described as a success story and one that should give all MS SAF members added enthusiasm because it gives evidence that our efforts to have a voice in forest policy are working. Here is my report from representing all of you at Legislative Days in Washington, DC.

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) held the first (hopefully annual) SAF Legislative Days program on June 2-3, 2003 in Washington, DC. As Policy Chair of the MS SAF, I represented Mississippi at this event. Twelve SAF members from around the US participated (though most were from the eastern US).

The agenda began with SAF members participating in a joint session to learn about the workings of Congress with other conservation groups at the Pinchot Institute.

After the opening session, I went to Capitol Hill to meet with Congressional staff to convey to them Mississippi SAF's interest in natural resource issues and a desire to have input on policy discussions. I presented to each staff person I met a copy of our "Professional View" document.

On Monday afternoon, I had a 25-minute meeting with Matt Miller of Rep. Pombo's staff (CA) with 3 other SAF members. Rep. Pombo is the chair of the House Committee on Resources where the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HBR 1904) originated. We discussed the need for active forest management.

Next, I had an excellent 40-minute meeting with John Rounsaville, Legislative Director for Chip Pickering. John was very interested in MS SAF and using MS SAF as a source of information as appropriate. Lastly, I participated in a 35-minute meeting with Frank Gladics of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with 4 other SAF members. We discussed the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, which will soon be taken up by the Senate. He is a former U.S. Forest Service employee and very knowledgeable. We had a productive discussion and he thanked all of us for coming. After this we went to dinner.

On Tuesday morning, I met with Kimberly Nelson and Marie Thomas, Legislative Assistants in Senator Cochran's office and later with Brian Wilson, Senator Trent Lott's Legislative Assistant to discuss MS SAF's interests as the day before. These staff members are the ones that handle natural resources issues. They

were very receptive to MS SAF's message. We discussed our position statements and they each received a copy of our "Professional View" document.

After the morning's appointments, I joined 7 SAFers for lunch and rode the Metro to the airport and caught a flight home at 3 pm.

In my judgment, this was a very worthwhile use of my time and our funds. The cost of the trip was less than \$900 and we were able to influence our Congressional delegation and get training in dealing with lawmakers. The staff members I met (from Mississippi and elsewhere) were glad to speak with "on the ground" foresters who knew what was going on, rather than paid lobbyists who staffers perceive are just pushing an agenda. The staffers asked lots of questions and were very appreciative of our visits. I suggest we follow up these meetings with invitations for these staff members to speak at local MS SAF meetings to update us on forestry issues in Washington whenever we can schedule it. Also, we can do a similar version of this with our State Legislature.

I recommend that MS SAF budget funds for and send a representative to this event annually. I will be glad to answer any questions any members have regarding this activity.



■ **TOM VIGOUR**
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POSITION STATEMENT

MS SAF POSITION STATEMENT ON MISSISSIPPI INSTITUTE FOR FOREST INVENTORY

Position

The Mississippi Society of American Foresters recognizes the importance of forest-based economic development and its inherent benefits to all Mississippians. At the foundation of this is the need for current, accurate information for use by planners and investors.

The creation of the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory is our best avenue for the assimilation and presentation of this information and the MS SAF supports its development and operation.

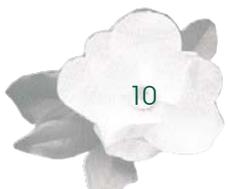
Background

As populations increase and demands on our forest resources increase, it becomes more important to have current knowledge of the volume and condition of our forest resource. The growth and survival of Mississippi's forest industry has proven the need to possess accurate inventory information. The inventory information on the majority of Mississippi's 18.5 million acres of forestland, however, does not exist because of its private ownership. Industry expansion based on our forest resource requires information of higher quality than is currently available.



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POSITION STATEMENT

MS SAF POSITION STATEMENT ON THE NEED FOR HARDWOOD FOREST MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

Position

The Mississippi Society of American Foresters supports increased research in the management of southern hardwoods. Increasing values for some hardwood forest products, in addition to wildlife management, environmental and ecological concerns, have resulted in landowners requesting more intensive forestry practices on certain sites suitable for quality hardwood production. The lack of an updated, comprehensive publication on southern hardwood management has seriously hindered successful planning and implementation of some hardwood management practices. The publication of an updated hardwood management manual specifying proven and unproven management techniques for specific species and site conditions is needed.

Background

Sites suitable for the production of quality hardwoods comprise a significant percentage of Mississippi's forestlands. These sites are found throughout the state from larger acreages in the Delta, other alluvial bottoms and loess hills to smaller tracts along minor stream bottoms, including within areas managed for pine production. Hardwood sites and stand conditions vary widely and forest management techniques must be properly applied to each if successful management is to be achieved.

The last comprehensive manual on southern hardwood management was published in 1960.¹ Since 1960, many significant research studies have been published, focusing on particular sites and conditions. Due to the wide variety of hardwood site conditions and species in the south, numerous stand conditions remain with no proven management techniques available. Published growth and yield data, particularly for long rotations is almost completely lacking.

Foresters managing hardwood sites are faced with attempting to apply management techniques developed for other regions or conditions, and results have often been disappointing. A comprehensive publication summarizing the proven management practices and their limitations would not only be a means to accomplish more successful hardwood management, but would also summarize the "gaps" and lead to research efforts to close these "gaps".

¹ Agriculture Handbook No. 181, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Management and Inventory of Southern Hardwoods, John A. Putnam, George M. Furnival and J.S. McKnight, November, 1960.



50 year members



Bill Prather (L) receives his 50-year certificate from John Moore (R).



Rollie Turman (R) receives his 50-year certificate from Randy Watkins (L).



James Moak (L) and wife receive his 50-year certificate from Debbie Gaddis (R).



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MSU names new interim dean and interim director

Bob L. Karr, associate dean for Mississippi State University's College of Forest Resources and associate director for the Forest and Wildlife Research Center, has been named interim dean and interim director.

Vance Watson, vice president for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine and George Verrall, the university's provost, announced the interim appointment effective June 9. This is the third time that Karr has served in an interim capacity in the college and center.

"Dr. Verrall and I have the utmost confidence in Dr. Karr and his ability to lead these two units," Watson said. "We pledge the university's full support as these units strive for a higher level of excellence."

Karr has been at MSU since 1976 when he began as an assistant professor in the Department of Forestry. He has served as associate dean/director for the College of Forest Resources/Forest and Wildlife Research Center for 11 years. A native of Stinnett, Texas, Karr received his bachelor's degree from McMurry University, his master's degree from Texas Tech University and doctoral degree from Texas A & M University.

The College of Forest Resources was founded in 1954 as the School of Forest Resources. It consists of educational programs in the Departments of Forestry, Forest Products, and Wildlife and Fisheries.

The Forest and Wildlife Research Center, a separately funded unit in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine, was authorized by the Mississippi Legislature with the passage of the Renewable Natural Resources Act of 1994. The Center's research expenditures totaled over \$10.4 million for fiscal year 2002.



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features

4th Annual Natural Resource Summer Camp

The Jones County Junior College Forestry Department offered a wide variety of education opportunities for students and foresters during the summer. Real-Time Inventory workshops were held at the University of Florida; University of Wisconsin; Paul Smith College in Buffalo, New York; Alabama A & M, Destin, FL; Gulf Shores, AL; and the Jones campus.

A four-day prescribed burning short course was hosted for Mississippi Forestry Commission employees.

Jones hosted two Natural Resource Summer Camps. These one-week camps, sponsored by the Mississippi Forestry Commission, gave high school students a hands-on learning experience in natural resources along with exploring career opportunities.

The students had an 8-5 schedule, with swimming and game room activities every evening. Topics covered in the camp were:

- Careers in Forestry
- Forest Recreation
- Urban Forestry
- Compassing and Mapping
- Soils
- Tree Identification
- Forest Measurements
- Wildlife Management
- Prescribed Burning
- Tree Farm System
- Forest Industry
- Genetic Tree Improvement



MSU announces personnel moves at College of Forest Resources

Two administrators in Mississippi State's College of Forest Resources and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center are assuming new duties for the next year.

Steven Bullard and Douglas Richards recently were appointed to interim positions at the university. Bullard now leads the forestry department, while Richards is holding the research center's associate directorship.

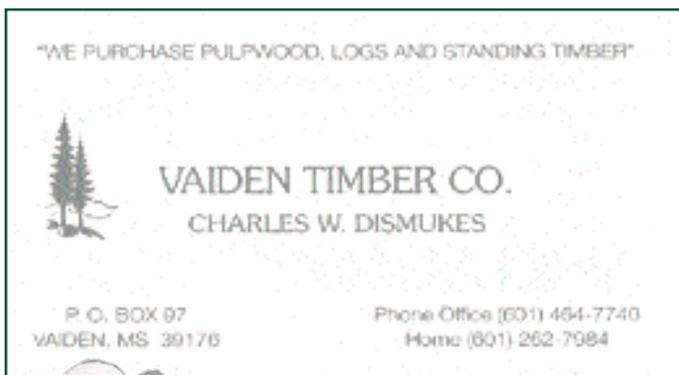
Bullard will continue as director of the Institute of Furniture Manufacturing and Management. The Department Head position is a joint appointment with the college and MSU Extension Service. Richards has led the forestry department since 1977.

Their appointments were announced last week by Bob Karr, interim dean of the college and interim director of the FWRC, and extension service director Joe McGilberry.

Bullard joined the faculty in 1983, serving in the departments of forestry and forest products. A researcher in the areas of forest investment and furniture industry resources, manufacturing and marketing, he holds bachelor's and master's degrees from MSU and a doctorate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Richards holds a bachelor's degree from the University of British Columbia and master's and doctoral degrees from Oregon State University.

As interim associate director, he will coordinate research efforts at the FWRC, a separately funded unit in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine.



Canada, U.S. reach tentative agreement to solve lumber dispute

Canadian and U.S. officials say they have reached a tentative deal to settle a long-running dispute over imports of Canadian softwood lumber used to build homes in the United States.

"There is a proposal that both governments have agreed to take back to their industries," said Heather Layman, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Commerce Department. She declined to give details Tuesday.

Grant Aldonas, a Commerce undersecretary who has led U.S. side in the confrontation, is expected to meet in Washington this week with Douglas Waddell, a Canadian assistant deputy minister of trade, to complete more details.

Negotiators agreed late last week after talks in Washington, officials from both countries said. The two sides are reporting back to ministers and lumber industry leaders in the two countries before a final decision is made.

"It isn't the time, it's the quality of the agreement that matters. It is important to take the time to analyze what we have as a draft," Canadian trade ministry spokesman Sebastien Theberge said.

Speaking at a World Trade Organization meeting in Montreal, Theberge said the deal could mean the end of litigation between the countries brought through the WTO and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Last year, the United States imposed tariffs averaging 27 percent on softwood imports from four Canadian provinces. The Bush administration contended that government subsidies keep Canadian lumber prices artificially low and threaten the U.S. industry.

Softwood lumber from pine, spruce and other trees is used to frame houses. The United States imported nearly \$6 billion of softwood lumber last year, about one-third of the American market.

Canada denies that it subsidizes its lumber industry. It complained to the World Trade Organization that U.S. tariffs have cost Canadian lumber companies hundreds of millions of dollars and eliminated thousands of jobs.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the draft agreement would reintroduce a quota system for Canadian lumber entering the United States, similar to an agreement reached during the 1990s.

Commerce's Aldonas proposed this year that Canada open bidding on cutting rights for timber and eliminate restrictions on how lumber is cut and processed. Canada has rejected similar proposals in the

past.

Theberge said recent and pending trade panel discussions moved the lumber talks forward.

Brian Zak, president of the Vancouver-based Coast Forest and Lumber Association, called the agreement "a great first step" toward fair trade, but said more work was needed.

The tentative deal may force mills in interior British Columbia, which currently employ three shifts of workers to produce framing materials, to cut back production, Zak said. But over time, the agreement should allow Canadian lumber production to return to historical levels, he said.

Associated Press

MacNaughton proclamation

During a recent Memorial Tree Planting Ceremony at the Forest Hydrology Laboratory, sponsored by the 4-Lakes Chapter of the Mississippi Society of American Foresters, Ham Williston read a proclamation for Victor B. MacNaughton. The proclamation was given to MacNaughton's granddaughters Joyce Folse and Lynda Pasmu.

Vic was the first forest supervisor of the Mississippi National Forest and was project manager of the Yazoo Little Tallahatchie flood prevention project.

Submitted by John Arrechea of the Four Lakes Chapter.

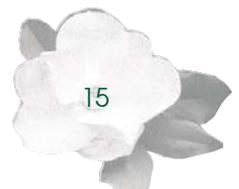
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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 29

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING MR. JASON KUTACK UPON BEING ELECTED AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS.

WHEREAS, Mr. Jason Kutack is the first resident of Mississippi to be elected as National President of the Society of American Foresters, which has been in existence since 1900; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kutack's position as president will bring a positive outlook for the future of forest management in the United States and especially for Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kutack is a World War II veteran, having served as a navigator in what is now the United States Air Force and attained the prestigious rank of Lieutenant Colonel; and

WHEREAS, born in Ironwood, Michigan, Mr. Kutack graduated from Michigan State University

with a bachelor's and master's degree in forestry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kutack is retired from International Paper Company, where he worked in various forestry positions for almost 40 years in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kutack moved to Hattiesburg in the early 1980s and is retired from being the Mississippi Society of American Foresters Business Manager; and

WHEREAS, an active member of the American Foresters, Mr. Kutack is a Golden 50-Year Member of the American Foresters, where he has served as a former State Chairman of the Tree Farm Program; and

WHEREAS, for his many years of outstanding service and contributions to the forestry industry, Mr. Kutack was awarded the 2002 Distinguished Service Award from the Mississippi Society

of American Foresters; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to recognize and commend outstanding Mississippians such as Mr. Kutack, who has been instrumental in the role of forest management in the State of Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Mr. Jason Kutack upon being elected as National President of the Society of American Foresters and express our heartiest wishes for success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be furnished to Mr. Jason Kutack and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.



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