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The Magnolia Forester is published semi-annually by the Mississippi Society of American Foresters.

November 2011
Volume 242, Number 1



MAGNOLIA *forester*

www.cfr.msstate.edu/mssaf

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION ON DESOTO NATIONAL FORESTRY

by Jimmy Mordica



The De Soto National Forest, De Soto Ranger District in Wiggins, MS, is focusing a lot of its efforts on Ecosystem Restoration. The primary focus is Longleaf Pine restoration. Other areas of interest include restoring Pitcher Plant Bogs, MS Sand Hill Crane Habitat, Bottom land Hardwood restoration (Black Creek corridor), Mesic Slope Hardwood Restoration, Restoring Native Warm Season Grasses in natural openings, and Gopher Tortoise and Red Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Restoration.

The De Soto Ranger District is 384,000 acres of mostly Longleaf Pine habitat. Only in the past decade has Longleaf Pine genetics and tree improvement reached the same level as Loblolly and Slash Pine. Genetically improved Longleaf Pine Orchards and containerized seedlings are now available and have great survival. The De Soto is working to restore approximately 51,000 acres of off-

site species that were converted from Longleaf Pine (some 30-40 years ago) to other species. Containerized Longleaf Pine seedling availability is a concern. The current supply is limited and we do not want to create a situation where we are harvesting more acres than we can establish. The De Soto has restored 5,115 acres of Longleaf Pine since 1999. A good start but more needs to be done if we are going to restore 51,000 acres.

Pitcher Plant Bog Restoration is a different animal. A lot of work and research was done in the past on bedding, fertilization, and planting in bogs. We have 1942 aerial photos that show open bog savannas. This is their natural stand condition for a reason. The De Soto Ranger District plans to restore approximately 800 acres of pitcher plant bogs by removing the planted Slash Pine. The treatment for most of the acres will be to lop and scatter small diameter stems

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from the Chair...

Welcome back to the Magnolia Forester! We have been out of commission since 2009 which has prompted discussion on the Magnolia Forester's future. The results from a survey to the Mississippi membership revealed substantial support for the continuation of the Magnolia Forester. Utilizing the input expressed by Society of American Foresters (SAF) members in the survey, the Mississippi SAF executive committee has decided to continue with this newsletter in an electronic format with paper copies printed and sent to those members who don't have access to email. We intend to publish two newsletters a year with feature articles written by local and national SAF members or reprinted from other sources. We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and hope that you continue to provide input to make it a better product.

What has been happening in Mississippi SAF? Local chapters have been sponsoring outstanding guest speakers as well as field trips. I had the opportunity to attend a joint meeting of the Longleaf and Magnolia Chapters at a beautiful private forest not far from Jones County Community College. Eating crawfish on a dock with a large alligator drifting by is a memory I will not soon forget. The Northeast Chapter has been active in helping Mississippi Educators learn about tree identification and the basics of nature and conservation. The Loblolly Chapter was the host of this year's annual meeting in Philadelphia

at the Gold Moon Casino. Many speakers were scheduled from around the state and attendees had an opportunity to hear about current research opportunities as well as ethics from Mr. Robert Jordan, Bureau Director of the Agricultural Theft Bureau, Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Overall it was a great event and well attended despite our current economic woes. Next year the Northeast Chapter will host the annual meeting in Tupelo.

As a source of continued pride for our state SAF, the Mississippi State University Student Chapter has been recognized as the Most Outstanding SAF Student Chapter in the Nation. This is the fifth time in the past 15 years that our students have been recognized in this manner. Anytime you see one of our students at a local, state, or national meeting or event, please let them know how proud we are of their efforts. They are our future and your support will help them transition into professional members. To stem our declining membership at the state level, this is critical. Finally, I want to say that Mississippi SAF is a great organization and a family of foresters who have known each other over the ups and downs of our profession. I wish everyone well in their current endeavors and ask that you let us know what we can do to make the organization stronger.

from the Vice-Chair...

Greetings fellow members of Mississippi SAF. It has been my pleasure to serve as your State Vice Chair this past year. Hopefully we had a chance to meet at our recent annual meeting held at the Golden Moon Casino. I enjoyed hosting that meeting along with the Loblolly Chapter and I'm looking forward to another excellent meeting this coming spring 2012 in Tupelo hosted by our Northeast Chapter. One of the responsibility areas of the Vice Chair is membership, so that is what I would like to discuss with you.

Membership retention and recruitment are a real problem for our organization. It is very possible in the next 5 years that readership of the Magnolia Forester will only be half of what it is now; that is unless we do something to correct our declining

membership. I presented the graph below (Figure 1) at the Mississippi SAF Executive committee meeting held this past July. Based on membership levels from 2007 to 2011, I projected that Mississippi SAF would lose half of our membership in the next 5 years. At those rates we are losing about 30 members a year. Based on the latest membership data from National SAF, membership was 320 at the end of 2010, and with recent expirations as of mid-September 2011 we have 279 current members; so, we are declining at a faster rate than I had previously estimated earlier this year.

At the upcoming Mississippi SAF 2012 Annual Meeting this spring the agenda will include an open discussion on the subject of membership retention and recruitment strategies. As you look at this graph it is quite

evident that we must do something. And I really mean we because this will require a team effort on the part of all of us to turn this downward trend up in a positive direction. Every single local chapter in our state is losing members. One of the suggestions from the Mississippi SAF Executive committee was formation of a membership committee charged with developing a membership plan of action. If you are willing to serve on this committee or have suggestions or comments, please contact me

(jhenderson@cfr.msstate.edu).

National SAF has created a new membership dues structure with four tiers (Student \$40; Silver \$95; Gold \$145 [\$95 five years post graduation]; and Platinum \$240). Each tier has a different range of member benefits. For example, the Silver level

includes the Forestry Source while the Gold includes the Forestry Source and the Journal of Forestry. Hopefully the new dues structure will help with our membership efforts here in Mississippi by making membership more affordable while also meeting our needs. National SAF has also made the following offer. "Anyone who recruits a professional member in 2011 will get \$10 off their national dues for 2012. This can be a new member or a reinstating member."

I look forward to serving as your State Chair next year and to engaging all of you in a discussion on building our membership. Please contact me if you have any suggestions or comments on membership efforts (jhenderson@cfr.msstate.edu).



Executive Committee Meeting

July 2011

- 1. Welcome:** Don Grebner welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Anti-Trust Statement:** Don Grebner discussed the nation's antitrust laws and reminded everyone of SAF's strict compliance.
- 3. Minutes of Last Meeting:** Marc Measells distributed the minutes from the April 5, 2011 meeting for review. Don asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Jimmy Mordica motioned they be accepted while Bob Heinz seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- 4. Financial Report:** Bob Heinz distributed the financial report for March 31, 2011–June 30, 2011. We had an ending checking account balance of \$15,960.39 and a CD with \$5,311.21 that matures on February 24, 2012 (1.05% interest rate). Bob distributed membership checks to those chapters with representatives in attendance and will mail checks to the others. Bob mentioned the two un-cashed checks that needed to be deposited and urged each chapter to do so in a timely manner. Don asked for a motion to accept the financial statements. Stephen Dicke made the motion. Jimmy Mordica seconded. Motion passed.
- 5. Council Report:** Ian Munn discussed the proposed SAF dues structure. People complained dues were too high and they didn't want everything currently included. There will be 5 tiers with dues decreasing by 28% for the average member. Members can select the tier they prefer. There is also a new member recruitment plan in conjunction with the new dues structure. Each member recruited equals \$20 off your dues and will last for 5 years if that new member stays active for 5 years. This new dues structure will be implemented starting in 2012. SAF is also launching a program to become the organization to certify Natural Resource Management programs at universities. SAF is weighing the option to become their parent organization as a way to broaden membership. They are looking for feedback from members.
- 6. Policy Committee Update:** Don Grebner mentioned the development of the Longleaf Pine Management policy statement. David South

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Executive Committee Meeting

helped develop the statement. So far the Policy Committee has not provided a final statement.

7. Committee Reports

2011 Annual Meeting: Marc Measells passed out the detailed expenditures and revenues from the 2011 MS-SAF Annual Meeting hosted by the Loblolly Chapter. We had \$16,323.20 in expenditures with \$23,333.51 in revenues for a net profit of \$7,010.31.

2012 Annual Meeting: John Kushla discussed the 2012 Annual Meeting scheduled for April 10-12, 2012 at the Clarion/Roadway Inn-Summitt Convention Center in Tupelo.

Professional Recognition Chair: Randy Watkins indicated we need to send out nominations for awards soon, including SAF Fellow and the Young Forester award. We can nominate anyone for the national awards. Joe Spinks is our Fellow representative and would like suggestions. Randy also mentioned we should consider recognizing members for 5, 10, 15, 20+ years of SAF service at the next annual meeting.

Membership Committee: James Henderson reported that the MS-SAF has had a 28.3% loss in membership numbers between 2007 and 2011 (approximately 30/year). He also distributed a membership plan that was developed by the Oregon SAF and suggested we do something similar. He also recommended forming a Membership Committee and asked Jason Gordon, Don Grebner, and Marc Measells to serve on it.

8. Old Business

National SAF, Forest Science & Technology Board (FSTB) representative: We need to find a representative from the MS-SAF to serve on the national board and report back to the state chapter. The

FSTB reviews all the national policies, identifies issues that need to be researched, and creates task force recommendations. The FSTB dictates many of the actions for the National SAF. Don would like to email the entire membership for nominations or volunteers.

Foresters Funded MSU Graduate Student

Symposium: Don Grebner indicated the MSU Graduate Student representative completed the final report and they received the rest of the money (20%). Chapters needing forester fund money should let Don know so we can help support it. Make sure to fill out application and submit follow up reports.

SAF membership rings: Don Grebner reported the students were excited about receiving the rings during the CFR graduation ceremony and that he received numerous positive comments from the students. It was no cost to the state chapter. It was indicated this may help with retention after students graduate.

Magnolia Forester: Marc Measells presented survey results about the Magnolia Forester. The majority indicated they wanted to keep the Magnolia Forester but that it could be sent electronically and would prefer receiving it two times a year. It was suggested to have Karen get one out this fall and beginning next spring to do two per year. John Kushla motioned to restart the Magnolia Forester and have it available electronically (email and/or via website). Randy Watkins seconded the motion. Ian Munn suggested still having a paper copy for those without email. John amended his motion to include mailing hard copies to those without email addresses. Randy seconded amended motion. Motion as amended passed.

Executive Committee Meeting

MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
(BancorpSouth Account)
March 21, 2011–June 30, 2011

Balance in checking account, March 31, 2011 **\$ 8,088.08**

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Chapter/Division Dues	\$ 1,156.00
Interest	\$ 1.00
Advertising	\$ 0.00
MS SAF Annual Meeting Proceeds	\$ 8,833.55
Adjustments (uncashed check)	\$ 5.00
Other Misc. Income (annual meeting sponsorship)	\$ 250.00

Total Support and Revenue **\$10,245.55**

EXPENSES

Chapter/Division Disbursed	\$ 0.00
Business Manager Stipend	\$ 300.00
Editor Stipend	\$ 350.00
Printing (Annual Meeting brochure)	\$ 0.00
Mailing/Postage (mail Annual Meeting brochure)	\$ 268.12
Travel	\$ 0.00
Supplies	\$ 0.00
Sponsorships	\$ 0.00
Meeting Costs (annual meeting awards)	\$ 284.12
Misc. Expenses *	\$ 1,171.00

**silent auction donation \$1,021*

**MS Wildlife Fed dues \$150*

Total Expenses **\$ 2,373.24**

Increase/(Decrease) in cash **\$ 7,872.31**

Balance in checking account, June 30, 2009 **\$15,960.39**

CD Information

\$5,311.21 - 12-month CD matures 2/24/2012 currently 1.05%

chapter NEWS

Broadleaf

Dale Oliver reported that at their June meeting, Charlie Morgan discussed the changes in the present day Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), including the developments and progression of MFC since he has been State Forester. Charlie felt the MFC would hold to its current state withstanding budget cuts. Dale said they were planning their next meeting in August, possibly in Vicksburg, but was not sure of the speaker at this time.

Capitol

Russell Bozeman stated they had no meeting activity yet this year. He hoped to have 3-4 meetings this year. Their July meeting was not held. August 25th was their next tentative meeting with Fire-Wise as the topic.

Four Lakes

Jason Gordon indicated that due to unforeseen circumstances, the Four Lakes SAF chapter held its annual Christmas party and fundraising auction in January. Everyone enjoyed the activity and Mr. Don Bell made it extra fun by employing his unique auctioneering skills. On February 15th, the chapter held its first meeting of 2011. Mr. Michael McCool spoke about herbicide application and Provine Helicopter sponsored the meal. As well, the chapter elected new officers: (1) Britton Hatcher as chair; (2) Carl Branson as vice-chair; and (3) Jason Gordon as secretary-treasurer. Upcoming meetings for the year were:

- Apr 21 – Field trip. Blueswood Recycling in Batesville
- Jun 23 – Alligator biologist
- Aug 18 – History by Dr. Sid Bondurant
- Oct 20 – Ethics
- Dec 1 – Christmas party potluck/ auction.

Jason Gordon indicated their last meeting was held in

June. A MDWFP representative gave a presentation about alligators. They had 9 people in attendance. Their next meeting was scheduled for August 18th.

Homochitto

Bob Naeger indicated it had been over 1.5 years since their last meeting. Bob stated that Jeff Rogers was looking for someone to take over as chair to revitalize the chapter.

Loblolly

James Henderson reported that the new officers were: himself as chair, Randy Rousseau as vice-chair, and Amanda Prisock as treasurer. James mentioned that the Loblolly Chapter was hosting the 2011 MS SAF Annual Meeting. The March 24th Loblolly Chapter meeting featured Scott Edwards who discussed wild turkey populations in Mississippi. The June meeting included a presentation by David Wilkinson and Michael Crosby on “Rapid Assessment of Forest Damage using Satellite Images of Tornado Damage” to quickly estimate timber damage after tornadoes. The next meeting was scheduled for September 19th with a field tour by David Evans about LIDAR research using the “Cave” at MSU using 3D images.

Longleaf

Jimmy Mordica reported that their meeting for March to was to Dickens Wood Chips in Wiggins. The following meeting would be a visit to Piney Wood Pellets which just opened in September. Randy Watkins was still waiting to confirm a date for the Piney Woods Pellet mill in Wiggins. Jimmy Mordica indicated that the Longleaf and Magnolia Chapters held a joint meeting in May which included a crawfish boil and a presentation dealing with land purchases. The next meeting would possibly be another joint meeting with the Magnolia Chapter on August 23rd. The Dickens Wood Chip field trip in

chapter NEWS

July was not conducted. They may have a field trip in October to the Desoto National Forest to discuss Longleaf restoration, picture plant bog restoration, Sand-hill cranes, and bottomland restoration being done using the stewardship program money.

Magnolia

Jim Walley mentioned that their next tentative meeting was set for May 5th with a crawfish boil in conjunction with the meeting. Jimmy Mordica had indicated that the Longleaf and Magnolia Chapters held a joint meeting in May which included a presentation dealing with land purchases. Jimmy Mordica indicated that the Magnolia and Longleaf Chapters had planned another joint meeting for August.

Northeast

The NE MS Chapter held its annual Christmas meeting and party at John Kushla's home in Tupelo on December 4th. They had excellent attendance of 19 people. Special guests included Dr. James Henderson and his wife Meg, as well as Dr. Jason Gordon and his wife Berry. The NE MS Chapter held its first quarterly meeting at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville on the evening of March 28. Alan VanValkenburg gave a Treasurer's report and collected dues from non-national members. John Kushla announced the upcoming MS SAF meeting in Choctaw on April 5-7, and briefly described the agenda. Following their brief business meeting, they moved to a computer lab in Wright Hall for the first part of a course on "Growth & Yield/Financial Analysis" to seven chapter members. Drs. Stephen Dicke, James Henderson, and John Kushla instructed the class. The course carries 4 CFE credits in category 1-CF. John Kushla reported they had their second chapter meeting on April 11 at the Northeast MS Community College with eight

people in attendance. They decided to participate as a chapter in the upcoming Teachers Conservation Workshop in June by assisting with Tree Identification the evening of June 21 at the City Park in Booneville. They would also sponsor one teacher for the event. James Henderson and John Kushla completed their "Growth & Yield/Financial Analysis" course that they conducted for chapter members.

They met on June 21 at Northeast MS Community College in Booneville with 9 people attending. They have a total of \$1101.84 in their savings and checking accounts. Dr. Don Grebner gave a brief update from the state society. Don mentioned there was a membership survey about the Magnolia Forester, about whether to keep it or not. There will be an officer training program later this year. Finally, Dr. Grebner mentioned that the national dues structure was changing. Membership options will be bundled, and there will be opportunity to recruit new members and thereby offset dues. They conducted a brief business meeting. It was announced that the Executive Committee selected the Clarion/Roadway Inn-Summitt Convention Center in Tupelo for the 2012 MS-SAF Annual Convention scheduled for April 10-12, 2012. They discussed themes and John suggested a biofuels/bioenergy theme, which was rejected. Don Thompson mentioned that 2012 is the 50th anniversary of the McIntire-Stennis Act. The chapter members liked the idea of commemorating this legislation which was accepted as the theme. John solicited assistance for the convention planning committee and their next task is to find speakers. Later discussions after the meeting included expanding the theme to include other significant legislation that promoted forestry. Dr. John Hodges has a nephew, Mr. Steve Grafton, who was an aide to Senator Stennis. Mr. Grafton was willing to participate in the convention. In addition, the evaluations from last year indicated that statewide interest is strong in biofuels/bioenergy. So, they will incorporate a couple talks on that, and possibly a

chapter NEWS

field tour to the pellet plant in Aberdeen. After the business meeting, their chapter helped sponsor the Teacher Conservation Workshop. They conducted Tree Identification at the City Park in Booneville. There were 24 teachers attending this year. Their chapter also sponsored a teacher, Mr. Andy Chumbley, from NE Mississippi. They presented him a \$100 check from their chapter.

JCJC Student Chapter

No report.

MSU SAF Student Chapter

Robert Grala reported they conducted their spring field day, participated in cleaning up a 1 mile stretch of highway, made a donation to St. Jude's Hospital, taking collections for the Salvation Army, participated in a Girl Scout event, and took a trip to a local school for PLT activities. They were having monthly meetings which included speakers from the Westervelt Company with interviews the next day. Robert mentioned that they had received 3rd place in the National Outstanding Student Chapter and 1st place in the National Outstanding Website awards again in 2010. They were not expecting many students would attend the National Meeting in Hawaii due to the high expenses associated with travel. Debbie Gaddis suggested they do a lot of fund-raising to help fund some students. The Student Chapter was also in the planning stages of starting an on-line store to sell SAF/Forestry Club merchandise (t-shirts, koozies, etc).

Robert Grala indicated they attended the 54th Annual Conclave in Athens, GA in March. They

ranked well in certain events. They donated \$300 supporting ST. Jude Hospital and had a booth at the 2011 SE Natural Resources Graduate Symposium. They conducted a PLT event at Sudduth Elementary School in Starkville. They organized a joint meeting with the Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. Ten members attended the MS SAF Annual meeting. Their last meeting for the spring semester was scheduled for April 5th and they elected new officers then. They also participated in 3rd Annual Earth Day event at MSU.

Don Grebner reported the activities for Robert Grala. Don hit the highlights of their activities for the spring. The MSU Student Chapter once again won 1st place in the Outstanding Chapter for the National competition. They would like to support one student to attend the National Meeting in Hawaii to accept the award. The MSU Student Chapter would like \$1,000 support from the MS-SAF. Randy Watkins motioned donating \$1,000 to fund the student's attendance. Stephen Dicke seconded. Jimmy Mordica discussed having Don ask each chapter to donate \$100 and MS-SAF could pick up the slack. Randy asked the retention rate of students we had sent in the past? Don was not sure. Dale Oliver questioned giving more. Don asked for a vote to donate \$1,000. No opposition. Motion passed. Jimmy Mordica motioned that each chapter donate \$100 to help support sending an MSU student to accept the national award in addition to the MS-SAF \$1,000 donation. Each Chapter makes the decision on whether to donate \$100. Dale seconded. Motion passed. Don will email the Chapter Chairs.

480,000 acres of 16th Section school trust lands ATFS certified

The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation (AFF), has announced that 480,000 acres of Mississippi's 16th Section school trust forestlands have been certified by the ATFS because of the sustainable management practices performed on these lands. The certification is the result of an innovative pilot project involving a partnership between the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), which manages the forested acres of 16th sections, and ATFS. This certification ensures that these lands are being properly and sustainably managed and that Mississippi will remain a strong competitor in the growing global need of certified wood.

"The Mississippi Forestry Commission is very excited that our state's 480,000 acres of school trust lands have been certified by the American Tree Farm System," said Charlie Morgan, Mississippi's state forester. "Our goal at MFC is to ensure that these lands, which contain one of our state's most important resources, are sustainably managed in an environmentally sound manner. We also believe that the certification of these lands adds to the attractiveness of our state as a location for companies in need of certified wood, creating additional opportunities for Mississippi's private landowners with ATFS certification and for Mississippi's loggers."

"This project marks the first time that a significant amount of public land has been certified by ATFS. Certification gives Mississippi new bragging rights—they are telling the world that they're managing their forestland in a way that has been internationally recognized as sustainable and credible," said Bob Simpson, senior vice president of forestry at AFF.

"Certification assures that the forests behind the Tree Farm sign are being cared for in a manner that's sustainable over the long term. Certified

wood keeps the forest and paper industry strong, competitive and viable, not just in Mississippi, but globally," he said.

Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann applauded the certification. "This is a great example of state agencies working together to generate funding for education. We appreciate the Mississippi Forestry Commission's leadership in making Mississippi the largest acreage of public lands certified in the American Tree Farm System. This translates to future dollars for Mississippi's future school children."

For more information about the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the new certification, visit MFC's website www.mfc.ms.gov or the ATFS website at www.treefarmssystem.org.

MFC News, August 2011

Josh Skidmore and Catch-A-Dream

The MFC continues to support the Catch-A-Dream Foundation. In May of 2011, Joshua Skidmore of the MFC went on a western fishing adventure with a beautiful young lady and her family from North Carolina. The group flew to New Mexico where they spent a day fishing for white bass, walleye and crappie. The young lady named Olivia had never been fishing and had never been out west. She was a sweet, quiet girl who continues to suffer daily with hearing loss, vision problems and fatigue due to her illness. Her continuous doctor visits and monitoring are a constant reminder to us all that life is precious and short. She is making the most of it by continuing to fight and encourage others with her attitude and smile. Her parents and two brothers were also along for her adventure and got to catch and "accidentally" release a few fish as well (you should have seen the size of the one that got away)!

The Catch-A-Dream foundation grants wishes to children who have been diagnosed with a terminal or life threatening disease/ condition, but these dreams

Josh Skidmore and Catch-A-Dream (cont.)

are specifically for hunting and fishing adventures. Catch-A-Dream (CAD) is based out of Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS. Joshua acted as a "Host" for CAD on this particular trip. Families interact directly with CAD through the host on these dream trips. Hosts are responsible for ensuring that the family is well taken care of, that all plans are met on time, that outfitters and family's expectations are met and that the trip goes smoothly.

All aspects of the CAD organization are by donation. Guides and staff volunteer time, money and hunts to this worthy cause. Thanks go out to the generous donations made by various groups and individuals (Captain Frank) that make these trips possible. If you would like to contribute to CAD, you may look them up on the web at <http://catchadream.org>. You may also go to www.goodsearch.com and use this as your search engine. Catch-A-Dream can be used as your charity of choice and if so, a portion of the proceeds from searches and purchases will directly benefit CAD. Happy hunting and fishing!

MFC News, September 2011

The MFC news is reprinted by permission of the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

In Memoriam

Charles Burkhardt, Loblolly Chapter, passed away September 9 at his Starkville area residence. He was 58. Charles served as MSU's Supervisor of Forest and Facilities Management. He earned a B.S. in forestry from MSU and became the forest supervisor in 1980. He was in charge of managing thousands of acres of university forests, planned and executed annual timber sales, was responsible for \$24 million of property and equipment. He founded the Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show in 1983. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established in the College of Forest Resources. The family request memorials be sent to the Charles E. Burkhardt Memorial Fund (payable to the MSU Foundation) at the following address:
Development Office
College of Forest Resources
Box 9680
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Tom Vigour, passed away Saturday, June 11, while competing in the 19th Annual Thunder on the Water race. Vigour was a member of the Four Lakes Chapter.

SAVE THE DATE MSSAF Annual Meeting

Policy Initiative Driving Forestry: Celebrating 50 Years of McIntire-Stennis Forestry Research

April 10-12, 2012

Clarion-Rodeway Inn/Summit Convention Center, Tupelo, MS

features



A Slash Pine stand on Longleaf Pine Soils, harvested, site prep burned, and planted to Containerized Longleaf Pine Seedlings in February 2011.



Restoration of Native Warm Season Grasses on natural openings.



Leave Tree Marked first thinning in Longleaf Pine. Thinning completed in July 2010.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION ON DESOTO NATIONAL FORESTRY

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and return the water table to its natural condition. A target Basal Area of 10-40 square ft/ac of larger stems will remain for pine straw production to maintain the fire regime.

Bottomland Hardwood restoration is planned on approximately 2,000 acres along the Black Creek corridor. Over the years of coastal storms, salvage, harvest and fires, these areas were planted in slash and loblolly Pine. Fire has contributed to stunting the hardwood component. There is a heavy component of White Oak and Swamp Chestnut Oak in both the over story and understory. We plan to remove the Loblolly Pine and reduce the fire regime, allowing the Oak component to reestablish naturally. We also plan to plant White Oaks in larger holes and openings where the Oak component is absent.

Mesic Slope restoration is planned on approximately 1,200 acres on the northern portion of the District. This area has many upland slope areas like Ragland Hills, Milky Creek Hills, and many more areas of Mesic Slope Forest. These areas consist of a

long pine ridge that drops off a steep slope down to a major watershed. The species composition along the slope consist of White Oak, Hickory, Bass Wood, Big leaf Magnolia, Cucumber Magnolia, Oak leaf Hydrangea, Black Oak, and other hardwoods. Much like the bottom land hardwood restoration areas, Loblolly Pine was planted along the ridge tops and upper slopes. We plan to remove the Loblolly Pine and lengthen the fire return interval to allow the Hardwood component to take back its natural range.

Also, there is the Camp Shelby Stewardship project which was approved in September 2011. Some of the unique opportunities with this project pair ecosystem restoration with military training and tank maneuvers. A strange combination, but it can be accomplished with great results. The De Soto has a long-standing partnership (since 1949) with Camp Shelby that continues to evolve and enhance both the ecosystem and the military training site. The gopher tortoise is doing quite well in the Camp Shelby area (117,000 acre Special Use Permit with DOD on

features



The goal of the US Forest Service is to restore and maintain Longleaf Pine Ecosystems to the desired conditions as pictured above.



Pitcher Plant Bog Restoration Work – The stunted slash pines are cut and scattered to restore the bog to its natural state. Open Bog savannas.



Military training in the piney woods of De Soto National Forest is a big part of the local landscape. Cooperation between the Mississippi National Guard and the US Forest Service on land management issues creates an enhanced training experience for our troops before they are deployed.

National Forest Lands). There are many threatened and endangered plant and animal species on these forest lands doing well as a result of cooperative management with Camp Shelby's Environmental Office, The Nature Conservancy, The US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the US Forest Service. One of the projects in this proposal is to trap feral pigs in the impact area. The pigs are rooting up Louisiana Quillwort communities in creek bottoms as well as Pitcher Plant Bogs. The environmental damage is devastating and must be addressed.

Another project in the works is a Watershed Restoration Proposal. The purpose of this project is to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems along the Black Creek Corridor. Clean water is a valuable by-product of a healthy forest. The De Soto Ranger District is a unique forest with a major wildland urban interface influence. It lies between Hattiesburg and the MS Gulf Coast. There are many forest users that enjoy the amenities of the National Forest. At the same time, the urban dwellers enjoy the ecosystem

services we provide in the form of clean air and water. All you have to do is look at the satellite image, on Google Earth, of the De Soto National Forest and you can see our carbon foot print. All of the storm water runoff and waste water treatment discharge, from Hattiesburg, drains into the Leaf River. The De Soto National Forest filters water from Black Creek, Red Creek, and the Wolfe River before they flow into the Pascagoula River and the Gulf of Mexico. This fresh clean water helps dilute the impurities from urban centers before it reaches the Gulf. The 384,000 acres of lush green forest sequesters carbon and provides clean air. Other benefits to local communities include improved wildfire control from frequent prescribed burning. This is an important concern with the ever increasing Wildland Urban Interface. Another benefit to local communities is rural jobs through Stewardship Contracting of service work. Ecosystem Services impact the daily lives of ordinary people and are a larger part of the overall mission of the US Forest Services.



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White Oaks and Big Leaf Magnolias on the break of a mesic slope ridge to the left and planted Loblolly pine on the ridge top and side slope. As you can see, there is adequate hardwood regeneration present. The goal is to implement a heavy thinning in the loblolly pine, reduce the fire regime, and give the hardwood regeneration time to re-establish on the mesic slope.