

# Press Release

from the South Carolina Forestry Commission



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## Cana Plantation, owner recognized for ideal forest stewardship

SHARON, S.C. — The South Carolina Forestry Commission recognized York County's Cana Plantation as a "Stewardship Forest" Sept. 22, citing owner Mike Johnson for his exemplary forest and wildlife management practices.

The Forest Stewardship Program is operated by the USDA U.S. Forest Service and administered in South Carolina by the Forestry Commission. The purpose of the program is to provide assistance – and recognition – to owners of forest lands whose good stewardship enhances and sustains the long-term productivity of multiple forest resources. Cana Plantation is only one of three woodlands areas in South Carolina to receive the honored designation in 2014.



Cana Plantation owner Mike Johnson, left, proudly displays his "Stewardship Forest" plaque, joined by SCFC Forester Jaime Jones, center, and Boise Cascade Co. forester Alan Abernathy.

The program provides landowners with the professional planning and technical assistance they need to keep their land in a productive and healthy condition. Specifically, landowners receive free expert advice and management plans prepared by foresters, wildlife biologists and soil conservationists to address the woodlands' potential for timber production, wildlife management, recreation and water and soil protection.

More than 4,000 South Carolina landowners have enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program since its inception in 1991; yet fewer than 250 properties have been recognized as "Stewardship Forests." Anyone who owns 10 or more acres with at least five acres in woodlands is qualified to participate in the program. After receiving their stewardship plan, landowners who actively manage their property in the spirit of the program can be nominated as a South Carolina Forest Steward.

Johnson purchased Cana Plantation two years ago, crediting the help of the South Carolina Forestry Commission and Boise Cascade Co. forester Alan Abernathy with transforming the property from an old cattle farm to a working forest and wildlife haven. Among the property's most substantive accomplishments are prescribed burnings and aerial herbicide applications to support loblolly pine stands and promote other pine growth. Johnson also has converted cattle fields into natural/native cover, establishing more than 100 acres of wildlife food plots and openings designed for nesting and ground habitat.

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In addition to actively participating in organizations such as Quality Deer Management Association, Quail Unlimited and the York chapter of Ducks Unlimited, Johnson also lends his property for experimentation in fire ecology.

For more information about the Forest Stewardship Program and forest stewardship in general, please contact the nearest county office of the South Carolina Forestry Commission, the Department of Natural Resources or The Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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**The mission of the South Carolina Forestry Commission is to protect, promote, enhance and nurture the forest lands of South Carolina in a manner consistent with achieving the greatest good for its citizens.**