



May 7, 2014

## TREE COUNTRY SC

*From the desk of...*

**STATE FORESTER**  
**Gene Kodama**



**Good Day,**

***After experiencing a winter involving unusual snow and ice events, we now have almost record high temperatures long before summer starts and a rapid green-up of forests and fields that lessens wildfire danger. Though the ice event was certainly a forest disaster across a big portion of the state, and salvage efforts continue, the consistent moisture has held down the number of wildfires again this year to below historic averages. Wildfire numbers are only about 60% of the 10 year average, and acres burned are at 46% of the ten-year average. And, though we also struggle to accomplish prescribed burning during this type of weather pattern, the low number of wildfires reduces risk to firefighters, property, and the public and greatly reduces the costs of equipment repair and fuel. So, a mild wildfire season is a mixed blessing that is preferred. Also, the past few years of mild wildfire seasons have given the Commission some time to recover a little from the severe budget, staffing, and equipment cuts that occurred from 2008 to 2011 when the agency dropped from 380 to 282 employees. If the past few wildfire seasons had been normal to severe, the Commission would not have been able to provide the protection response expected and needed across the state.***



*Firefighting personnel and reliable equipment are critical to accomplishing our mission. (2011 Hornet Fire)*

***With increased funding from FY2012 through this year, the Commission has hired back 49 personnel to reach a total of 331 employees (with most of those being fire-related positions), which is about half of the 100 positions lost due to budget cuts. We will also have replaced about 36 of the 160 dozers, plus other key equipment like two fire-tracks. And, the old outdated dispatch equipment we used to have has been totally replaced with a modern, reliable system.***

*(Continued on page 2)*

**NOTE:** The next Bulletin will be May 21 .

***In our 2014-2015 Budget Request this year, we have continued to ask for restoration of some staffing and accelerated replacement of old dozers with enclosed-cab units. The Senate is now debating agency budget requests, and we anticipate some additional funding for staffing and equipment.***

***This month and into early June, the Commission is participating in South Carolina's Government Employee Appreciation initiative. These sessions are being held to ensure that our employees know that their service and dedication to the state and to the Commission and its mission are greatly appreciated. I hope you enjoy these gatherings and understand that each Commission employee is valued for their service and their contribution to our agency's team effort to protect and develop the forest resources of South Carolina.***

***Best regards,***

***Gene***



*Adequate forest inventory personnel and other staffing is essential to mission accomplishment. (Michael Bloom)*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL FORESTRY— Herb Nicholson**

### **Outstanding Logger Nominations**

I am fortunate to be a member of the committee to select the recipient of the 2014 Outstanding Logger Award, an award given annually by the SC Forestry Association for the last 30 years. If you know an outstanding logger or have dealt with a landowner that has had a great experience with a logger on their property, I encourage you to nominate that logger.

The rules, guidelines, and nomination form, which includes the names of the past recipients of the award, are **attached** to the bulletin email. Nominees should not only be environmentally and business conscious, but also be involved in the community and go "above the call of duty" actively promoting forestry. **Please submit your nomination to the SC Forestry Association by June 27<sup>th</sup>.**

## ***Quote of the Week***

***Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls.***

Thomas Edison

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** South Carolina's state employees deliver services that enhance the lives of the people of the Palmetto State; and

**WHEREAS,** South Carolina's state employees perform a variety of challenging and important tasks, including preserving public safety and protecting the health of our citizens, working to ensure clean air and water, caring for crime victims and the economically-disadvantaged, rehabilitating and counseling people in need, attracting and supporting commerce, building and maintaining our highways, schools, and other infrastructure, administering justice, protecting citizens' rights, inspecting our food, licensing our cars, educating our children, and striving to advance medicine, science, and technology for the benefit of our residents; and

**WHEREAS,** these dedicated servant leaders perform their duties with compassion, professionalism and a commitment to those they serve; and

**WHEREAS,** the 2014 observance of South Carolina State Employee Recognition Day provides a special time to express our appreciation and gratitude to our state employees for their hard work and dedication to our continued well-being and quality of life.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2014, as**

### SOUTH CAROLINA STATE EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize state employees in the Palmetto State for their hard work, sacrifices, and dedication to the people of South Carolina.



Handwritten signature of Nikki R. Haley in black ink.

NIKKI R. HALEY  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### South Carolina State Employee DISCOUNT Week!

**Tuesday, May 6 – Sunday, May 11**

**Cottonmill Exchange  
South Carolina State Museum  
301 Gervais Street, Columbia • 803.898.4967 • First Floor, Lobby**

**S.C. State Employees with a valid I.D. get 10% OFF in the State Museum store!  
State Employees who are also State Museum Members receive an EXTRA 10% OFF!**

**Become a State Museum member and SAVE!  
Call 803.898.4937 or visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org)  
Museum admission not required to shop.**

## INFORMATION—Scott Hawkins Anniversary of Highway 31 Fire

On the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Highway 31 Wildfire (4/22), the South Carolina Forestry Commission, North Myrtle Beach Fire Department, and Horry County Fire/Rescue held a drop-in to mark the occasion.

The 2009 fire burned more than 19,000 acres and is regarded as the worst wildfire in state history. As anticipated, a number of media outlets who covered the fire five years ago were on hand to reflect on it and interview firefighters about their memories. This turned out to be a prime opportunity to display some of the enclosed-cab equipment we now have (and weren't in the fleet in 2009) and discuss other improvements to our fire suppression capacity, including cross training in wildland firefighting with local responders. Our thanks to Chief Tom Barstow of North Myrtle Beach FD and Horry County's Captain Tim Rainbolt for participating.



*Darryl Jones (right) and Horry County Fire/Rescue's Tim Rainbolt discuss cooperative efforts to cross train structural firefighters in wildland fire suppression with Sun News reporter Amanda Kelley.*



*WPDE-TV's Joel Allen climbs aboard a new closed-cab tractor with the help of Doug Mills to take TV viewers on a tour.*



*Three interviews with local TV news crews going on simultaneously at the North Myrtle Beach Fire Department. (Gene Kodama in the foreground being interviewed.)*



*The Sun News' Randall Hill takes a close up of a SCFC fire track.*



*Randall Hill and Amanda Kelley from the Sun News with Doug Mills talking about specs on newer SCFC field equip.*

## PIEDMONT WEST—Michael Weeks

### Chimney Top Mountain Fire

On Friday, April 11, around 5:00pm the Forestry Commission received a call of a fire on Chimney Top Mountain in Pickens County.

This is DNR (Department of Natural Resources) property in the Jocassee Gorges area just west of Sassafras Mountain. The area is mostly undeveloped with a few scattered homes in very rugged terrain. Ray Cassell responded as the Incident Commander (IC) along with Jarrod Brucke, Isaac Case, Trey Cox, David Bagwell, Ronnie Patterson, and Steve Bogan (Air 3-4). The Pickens County Volunteer Hand Crew was activated and every Fire Department in Pickens County responded to the "Chimney Top Mountain Fire".

The fire at initial attack was approximately 40 acres in size and was in a rock cliff on the mountain. The crews worked all night to try and establish a fire break by using the Foothills Trail and by pushing a dozer line around it, but were unsuccessful. The decision was made to back up and tie a line into a drain that ran into Clemson's Camp Hannon. This was done with some dozer lines and a hand line down extremely steep terrain. This contained the fire inside a 500 acre box using the fireline and the road system. The night crews then attempted to burn out along the roads, but the humidity was too high for a good burn out to take place.

The next morning, Michael Weeks took over as IC and the initial attack crews were relieved. Arriving to assist were over 20 SCFC personnel from all three Regions, State Forests, Stewardship, and the Columbia office. At the start of the day crews were not sure the hand line or the drain would hold the fire. To help determine where to put in lines, David Owen (along with a volunteer hand crew member) scouted the area for contingency lines.

Over the next 14 hours, crews burned out 3.2 miles of roads and put in over 3 miles of contingency dozer line. To accomplish this, personnel on-scene were divided into three groups: engine group, dozer group, and a burnout group. The first back-up line to the hand line and drain was Abner Creek. This was a 10 foot wide perennial stream, but it had steep slopes running up both sides of it. This option would add approximately 100 acres to the fire. The second back-up was Abner Creek Road. This was over 3 miles of woods roads and would have added over 500 additional acres.

On Sunday, April 13, crews burned out the last bit of unsecured line around the structures at Clemson's Camp Hannon. This burn out went very slow because the humidity had increased from the previous day. Toward the end of the day David Owen, Nathan Gambrell, and Pat Welburn (Volunteer Hand Crew Member) walked the hand line and drain and reported that it had held. The rest of the day was spent monitoring the situation. It was decided (primarily for safety reasons and to avoid firefighters arriving at their home after 11pm) to place travel restrictions on the crews, requiring them to stay one more night before demobilizing the next morning. This also kept the crews to ensure the fire remained contained as windy conditions were predicted before the rains arrived.

Pre-planning before an emergency was a big help on this fire. Agreements were already in place with Clemson's Camp Hannon to house and feed the firefighters beforehand. Staging areas and local restaurants were also in the pre-plan making logistical issues easier to accomplish. I would encourage everyone to do a little pre-planning in your home area as it saves time especially in the first 36 hours as everyone is scrambling.

The West Unit would like to thank everyone who helped with the Chimney Top Mountain Fire. This includes personnel from Piedmont and Pee Dee Dispatch, all 3 regions, Stewardship Program, State Forests, the Columbia office, the Pickens County Volunteer Hand Crew, Pickens County Fire, DNR, and Clemson's Youth Learning Institute. We would also like to thank those who covered for the firefighters who came to this fire. If anyone on the fire has Task Books, please send them to Darryl Jones in the Columbia Office by May 12 to get tasks signed off.



*Aerial view of the fire.*



*Burning out around the caretaker's house.*

## TECHNOLOGY—Jeff Baumann

### New Horry County Repeater

The new Horry Repeater went operational on Wednesday, April 23 when the tower climbing firm under state contract installed the antenna and coax cable on SCETV tower north of Conway. Initial coverage tests found handheld radio (5 watts) coverage to the ocean edge in Horry County and better mobile radio (45 watts) coverage into Dillon, Lake View, and Nichols than for the Florence or Brittons Neck repeaters previously used for these areas. Coverage looks very encouraging into Scranton, Andrews, Plantersville and the edge of Georgetown. As you can see by the attached estimated signal coverage for the new Horry repeater, the entire county now has strong (probably portable radio) coverage with the Horry repeater and back into the agency's Dispatch Centers.

With the addition of the new repeater in Horry County, the antenna for the Brittons Neck repeater was turned from 75 degrees to 170 degrees (from true North). Brittons Neck antenna was turned towards eastern Horry County (75 degrees) when the agency lost the Wampee repeater many years ago in order to improve coverage in that part of the county.

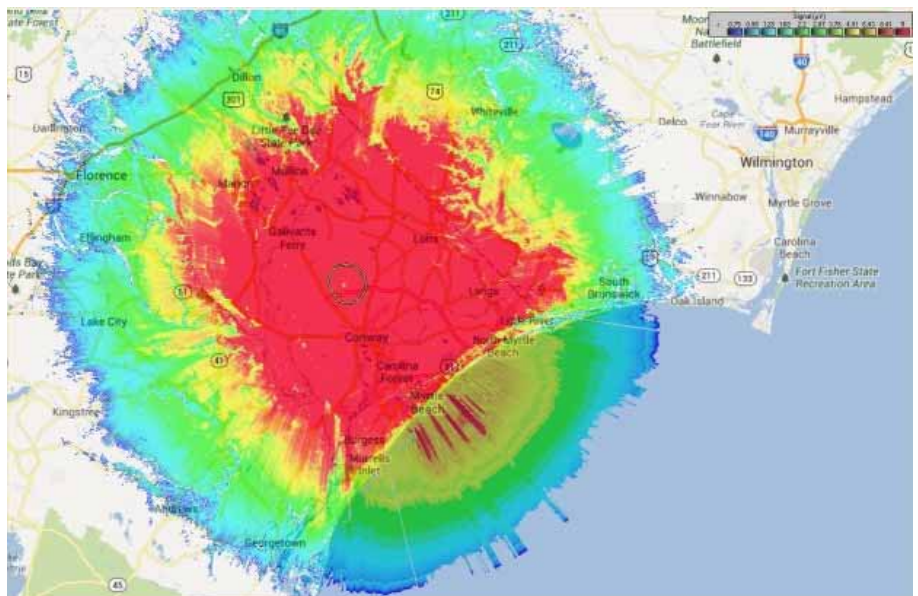
Turning Brittons Neck antenna to 170 degrees points it between Kilsock Bay (190 degrees), the City of Georgetown (180 degrees), and Sandy Island (150 degrees); but directly at South Island (170 degrees) a known communications void.

Verification of Brittons Neck signal to the south (Conway, Surfside Bypass and Murrells Inlet) was solid. Sandy Island area probably got an improvement as a portable radio (5 watts) could be used to talk to the dispatch center from the parking lot at the ferry landing. Mobile radio coverage (45 watts) was solid on both Horry and Brittons Neck repeaters. Some spots were better with Horry and some with Brittons Neck.

The South Island area has extremely thick vegetation and very low elevation (probably less than 5 feet above sea level). This would definitely have a negative impact on radio communications. At the South Island ferry landing, portable radios were able to talk to each other through Brittons Neck. It was scratchy but readable. The mobile radio worked better on Brittons Neck than Andrews or Horry repeaters.

On the road from South Island to US Hwy 17 that runs west and goes by Annandale and the other plantations and across US Hwy 17 on Powell Road there was mobile radio coverage through Brittons Neck most of the time, but it was scratchy. About midway on Powell Road, Andrews repeaters overpower Brittons Neck and takes over for best coverage.

Resources should now try using the Britton Neck or Horry repeaters instead of the Andrews repeater in these areas for better radio communications with dispatch and other units.



*Estimated radio signal coverage for the new Horry Repeater. Red areas indicate very strong and possible portable radio (5 watts) coverage with remaining colors depicting typical mobile radio (45 watts) coverage.*

## STEWARDSHIP—Jaime Jones

### Woodland Owner Recognized for Forest Stewardship

The woodlands owned by Dr. William “Win” and Carolyn Green were recently recognized as a “Stewardship Forest” in South Carolina. Dr. and Mrs. Green recently received the award for their forest and wildlife management accomplishments from Jaime Jones and Chase Folk, foresters with the South Carolina Forestry Commission. The Green’s farm is one of only 6 in South Carolina to receive “Stewardship Forest” recognition for 2014.

The Forest Stewardship Program is a national program of the USDA Forest Service, administered in South Carolina by the Forestry Commission. The program assists the landowner in identifying his or her management objectives for timber, wildlife, recreation, water, and soil protection. Because the program is a cooperative effort among several agencies, a landowner can receive free expert advice and a written management plan prepared by a management team comprised of a forester, wildlife biologist, and soil conservationists. After receiving the Stewardship Plan, a landowner who actively manages this property in the spirit of the program can be nominated to become a *South Carolina Forest Steward*.



*Win and Carolyn Green with forester Chase Folk.*

The Green’s purchased the majority of the property in 1999 and have since added additional acreage. With the help of their consulting forester, Jeff Brown with Forest Resource Professionals, the Green’s reestablished areas of the farm that were cutover by previous owners, improved hardwood regeneration and diversity, and significantly improved wildlife habitat. Dr. Green says that the most useful information received from his management plan is “management of the pine and hardwood stands and the introduction of prescribed fire for upland pine forest.”

Dr. Green has immersed himself into landowner education offered by Clemson Extension and other landowner organizations. He has completed the Master Tree Farmer I and II, and Master Wildlife Course taught by Clemson Extension, as well as the Certified Prescribed Fire Manager Course offered by the SC Forestry Commission. He is a member of American Tree Farm System, Lexington and Richland County Forest Landowners Association and Quality Deer Management Association. When asked to offer advice to share with other forest stewards, Dr. Green encourages landowners to “manage the land to leave it in better condition than when you purchased or inherited it.”

More than 4,000 South Carolina landowners have enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program; fewer than 250 properties have been recognized as a “Stewardship Forest.” Anyone who owns 10 or more acres with at least five acres in woodlands is qualified to participate in the program. For more information about Forest Stewardship, contact your county office of the South Carolina Forestry Commission, Department of Natural Resources, or Natural Resources Conservation Service.

## A FEW MORE PUNS

Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!

Be kind to your dentist. He has fillings, too.

Velcro. What a rip off!

I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.



## AROUND THE STATE

### Stormfest

On Saturday, April 12th Drake Carroll and Lynn Collins attended Stormfest in Horry County with the Wildland Urban Interface exhibit trailer. The event was held at Pelican's stadium and conducted by the Horry County EMD to help prepare residents for storms and other disasters.

*Firewise Coordinator Drake Carroll and forest technician Lynn Collins with the WUI exhibit.*



### 5 Billionth Tree Update

Tim Adams recently stopped by the State House to see how the 5 billionth tree is doing. It seems pretty well, by the looks of things. The pine was moved to a new location since the ceremonial planting back in December, 2010. It is now flanked by 2 longleaf pines. To the right is a picture of the 5 billionth tree with 3 years of additional growth on it, and one from the ceremony in 2010. This is still the only Loblolly pine on the State House grounds.

*Tim Adams with the tree in 2014.*



*Tree planting ceremony in 2010.*

### Marlboro Academy Learns about Wildland Firefighting

Lynches River Supervisor Shawn Feldner, forest technicians AJ Wallace, and Lee Williams did an educational program for first through fourth graders at Marlboro Academy in Bennettsville on Tuesday, April 29th.

They had two dozers to demonstrate to the students and talked to them about the capabilities of the SCFC, wildland firefighting, equipment, and also gave away handouts and goodies.



*Forest technician Lee Williams explains how we use dozers to fight fire.*



*Supervisor Shawn Feldner shows the students a dozer.*



## URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY—Dena Jacob

### Laurens Community Canopy Session

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, Trees SC partnered with the city of Laurens to host a community forestry workshop as a “canopy session” on tree care topics for area professionals, municipal employees, and local residents. The canopy session was planned and coordinated jointly, by Trees SC’s Canopy Session Committee and the city of Laurens’ Main Street USA Design Committee. Karen Hauck, Executive Director for Trees SC, did a fantastic job in organizing the event along with members of the Canopy Sessions Committee, including, Danny Jones (city of Rock Hill), Derrick Phinney (Clemson Extension, St. George), Eddie Bernard (town of Mount Pleasant) and Dena Jacob (SCFC Piedmont Urban Forester).

The two-hour workshop featured three outstanding presentations from highly-qualified speakers in the field of urban forestry, followed by a brief field tour with discussion of local urban tree plantings and site preparation analysis.

Drew Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Grounds for the city of Greenville, provided an excellent presentation on techniques and approaches for proper tree pruning and shared his professional insight and experience with the city of Greenville. During his presentation, he also addressed tree “topping” as an improper technique that defies the industry standard on pruning and discussed the potential stresses that topping can lead to as well as numerous other negative impacts on tree health. Drew stressed the importance of setting goals during the pruning process and incorporating a plan for each individual tree based on assessing the needs of the tree and visualizing the final product.

Danny Jones, Landscape Architect for the city of Rock Hill, presented a highly valuable and insightful presentation on site preparation and planning for new trees in the urban landscape. His presentation focused on identifying various site restrictions, both above and below ground, during the planning process and evaluating options for mitigating restriction and deficiency. He emphasized that urban trees are often installed into tree planters (“tree pits”) that lack suitable soil volume needed to support a healthy urban tree and that improving space limitations and soil conditions will greatly improve a tree’s chances of success. In addition to improving the planting space by removing pavement and adding organic matter to improve soil, cities often overlook the idle space available that can be added to tree planters. Selecting the “right species for the right place” will avoid management problems in the future.

Dr. Bob Polomski, Professor of Horticulture and Urban Forestry, Clemson University, provided a captivating presentation that focused on selecting appropriate species to plant in the urban environment and conducting planting site assessments, prior to planting. He also emphasized the need for proper tree care and management post-planting, to maintain healthy trees in the urban landscape. Proper pruning technique, appropriate watering and maintenance of mulch beds are all critical to the success and health of urban trees. In lecturing on careful selection of urban species, Dr. Polomski borrowed a quote from SCFC retired Urban Forester, Jimmy Walters, advising the need to “fit the tree to the site or fit the site to the tree.” Alternatively, he suggested constructing “roots paths,” prior to planting, as a way to channel root growth and provide additional, allowable space to expand and grow.

Following the presentations, a brief field tour was led by Danny Jones, in which attendees enjoyed the opportunity to review some of the trees planted along the Main Square and discuss concerns and issues with tree health, pruning and site conditions. Dr. Polomski and Drew Smith also helped to facilitate discussion and answer questions.

Special Thanks to Trees SC and the City of Laurens for their partnership for the canopy session workshop in Laurens! For more information on Trees SC and future urban forestry educational events, visit their website at: <http://www.treessc.org>.



*During field tour, Danny Jones removes a tree grate to discuss interference with tree trunk growth. Lowe Sharpe (SCFC) assists with the demonstration. Jonathan Irick (Main Street USA, Laurens) observes.*

## Woodland Clinic 2014

The Woodland Clinic, formerly a project of the Ninety Six District RC&D Council, lives on as a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation. Funds for the Clinic came from contributions from the forestry community. The annual field day was held May 1 at the Connie Maxwell Children's Home farm in Greenwood. Over 100 students from seven area high schools participated, in spite of a two-day delay due to the forecast of severe weather (which never materialized).

A number of SC Forestry Commission personnel from Columbia and the Piedmont Region participated, as well as some retirees. Jimmy Walters, Vice-chair of the Woodland Clinic, helped coordinate and emceed the event. Forestry Commission helpers included Russell Hubright, Lowe Sharpe, Dena Jacob, Mike Bozzo, Robert Jones, Clay Cooper, Robert Gable, Buddy Gunter, Brad Bramlett and Stephen Patterson. Besides Jimmy, retirees Joel Felder and Skip Burnette joined in. Another familiar retiree present was retired USFS District Ranger John Cathey. Other assistance came from Clemson Extension, W.K. Brown Timber Corporation, NRCS and Conservation District personnel and volunteers from Connie Maxwell and the community.

The teams competed in Compass and Pacing, Tree Measurement, Tree and Forest Pest Identification, and Forestry Tools and Equipment. The "Lumberjack Race," a fun event, involved using a crosscut saw, bow saws, peaveys and log carriers to compete against the clock. The round-robin

competition was won by a team from Dixie High School in Due West, with second and third place going to Saluda and Strom Thurmond High School, respectively. Calhoun Falls Charter School won the Lumberjack Race for the third year in a row. Plans are to hold the Woodland Clinic in the same location next year, April 28, 2015. Mark your calendar!



*Technician Robert Gable secures the log and encourages the young men on the crosscut saw.*



*Lowe Sharpe and Dena Jacob work on scoring during the skills competition.*



*Students identify trees and forest pests as Russell Hubright looks on.*



*Brad Bramlett instructs participants on the Compass and Pacing course.*

*Strom Thurmond's team heads for the finish line in the Lumberjack Race.*

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## EMPLOYEE NEWS

We are pleased to announce that **Stephanie Kolok** has been selected for the position of **Environmental Education Coordinator**. Stephanie has demonstrated leadership in her Assistant Education Coordinator roles as the Wood Magic Forest Fair Coordinator and Project Learning Tree Coordinator. We look forward to her continued professional growth as she assumes the duties of this new position beginning May 2.

**Justin Smith** has been named as the Assistant Forest Director at Sand Hills State Forest effective May 2. Justin was a project forester in the Lynches River Unit before accepting his new position. Congratulations Justin!

The agency has four employees that are leaving/have left their positions with the agency: **Jared Upchurch** (Sand Hills State Forest 4/18/14), **Ronald McClary** (Black River Unit 5/1/14), **Zane Clardy** (Santee Unit 4/25/14), and **Jimmy Lisenby** (Taylor Nursery 6/1/14). We wish them the best in their outside endeavors.

### Congratulations!

Environmental Education Coordinator **Stephanie Kolok** has killed her first turkey. Stephanie had her first hunting experience last year when she participated in a NWTF Women in the Outdoors event. On the last day of turkey season this spring, she called for herself and harvested a 16.5 lb gobbler on the WMA lands of Manchester State Forest. Way to go Stephanie!



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### Screen Time Perilous to Peepers

For most of us, computers and other digital devices have become an integral part of our lives. However, staring at these devices for long periods of time can cause eye strain. Here are some ideas to help ease the strain on your eyes:

- Position your computer screen about 25 inches away and tilt it so that you view it at a slightly downward angle
- Light the area properly to reduce screen glare
- Remember to keep blinking
- Look at an object at least 20 feet away every 20 minutes for at least 20 seconds (the 20-20-20 rule)
- Use artificial tears if your eyes feel fatigued or dry
- Take regular breaks from your computer
- Try to get enough sleep at night.



SOURCE: American Academy of Ophthalmology

## NEW EMPLOYEES

**Allison Talbot** is the new Human Resources Specialist who transferred from the Department of Public Safety (DPS). She worked as a HR Liaison for DPS prior to transferring to the Commission and has other private human resources and finance work experience. Allison loves to read and lives in Elgin with her family and boxer, Cooper.

Allison's primary job duties will be benefits administration to include *New Hire Orientation*, monitoring SCEIS missing time, and assisting employees with routine work hours and leave entry discrepancies, as well as, other human resource administrative functions. She also will be the direct contact for individuals visiting the headquarters office. Allison will be in a training period for a while. I know you will welcome her as she becomes familiar with our agency. Her new number is 896-7059.

With the addition of Allison, Erica Brazile's primary duties will continue to be coordinating the recruitment, selection, new hire process; administering the temporary employment process, and the agency's Employee Performance Management System. She also is the primary person responsible for the updates and maintenance of the SCEIS organizational and personnel modules, as well as performing other human resource administrative functions.

**Eli Collier** is the new forest technician in Fairfield County. Eli graduated from AC Flora High School in Columbia and has been a welder for the last few years. Eli started on April 17th and loves to hunt, fish, and spend time in the outdoors.

**Kelly L. Banks** is the new Coastal Dispatch Manager in Walterboro. Kelly attended the American Military University in Charles Town, WV and worked as a communications officer with the Colleton County Sheriff's Office. She lives in Walterboro with her family. Kelly enjoys hunting and fishing. She does a lot of volunteer work and is involved with community disaster assistance through the United Way.



Allison Talbot



Eli Collier



Kelly Banks

## CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

**JOB TITLE:** Internal **Forester II**

**LOCATION:** Orangeburg County, South Carolina

**CLOSING DATE:** May 14, 2014

**AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MIN:** \$33,109.00 **AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MAX:** \$37,197.00

**RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS:** This position works in Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties.

**JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:** **\*\*INTERNAL POSTING\*\*** Recommends and promotes sound forestry management practices to landowners to include examination of woodland and preparation of complete forest management plans. Assist landowners in implementing recommendations. Conducts prescribed burns; responds to wildland fires; performs forest fire suppression duties; marks and estimates volume on any stand of timber requested. Provides technical assistance to specialized areas of forestry including best management practices, urban forestry and insect/disease surveys. Provides information to the public regarding state forest and forestry services.

A bachelor's degree in forestry from a college or university accredited by the Society of American Foresters and one (1) year of forestry experience. Current SC Registered Forester or eligible within one year. Must pass a physical fitness test of walking two (2) miles in thirty (30) minutes carrying a 25 lb. pack. Must obtain firefighter registration with the SC State Fire Marshal's Office. A criminal background check is a condition of employment.

## **CURRENT JOB OPENINGS** (continued)

**JOB TITLE:** Internal -Forester II

**LOCATION:** Kershaw County, South Carolina

**CLOSING DATE:** May 14, 2014

**AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MIN:** \$33,109.00 **AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MAX:** \$37,197.00

**RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS:** This position works in Kershaw, Lee, Darlington Counties/Surrounding Area.

**JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:** **\*\*INTERNAL POSTING\*\*** Recommends and promotes sound forestry management practices to landowners to include examination of woodland and preparation of complete forest management plans. Assist landowners in implementing recommendations. Conducts prescribed burns; responds to wildland fires; performs forest fire suppression duties; marks and estimates volume on any stand of timber requested. Provides technical assistance to specialized areas of forestry including best management practices, urban forestry and insect/disease surveys. Provides information to the public regarding state forest and forestry services.

**REQUIREMENTS:** A bachelor's degree in forestry from a college or university accredited by the Society of American Foresters and one (1) year of forestry experience. Current SC Registered Forester or eligible within one year. Must pass a physical fitness test of walking two (2) miles in thirty (30) minutes carrying a 25 lb. pack. Must obtain firefighter registration with the SC State Fire Marshal's Office. A criminal background check is a condition of employment.

**JOB TITLE:** RE-ADVERTISEMENT Forestry Technician II

**LOCATION:** Chesterfield County, South Carolina

**CLOSING DATE:** Continuous

**AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MIN:** \$25,627.00 **AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MAX:** \$33,000.00

**JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:**

THIS IS A RE-ADVERTISEMENT. PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT RE-APPLY. YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSTING. Assists the Assistant Forest Director in managing the timber, wildlife, and public on Sand Hills State Forest. Assist with the marking and marketing of timber; inspects completed work. Responsible for logging operations on the forest. Assist with forest management activities including but not limited to prescribed burning, wildfire suppression, wildlife and recreation management and general maintenance.

**MINIMUM AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:** A high school diploma and two (2) years experience in forest fire control, law enforcement, forestry management or nursery operations. An Associate Degree in forestry or natural resources may be substituted for the required work experience. Must pass initial physical fitness test that requires a two (2) mile walk carrying a 25 lb pack in 30 minutes. Firefighter registration with the State Fire Marshal's Office, criminal records check and drug test are required.

## SERVICE AWARDS for May

**Mike Shealy**

**Columbia**

**15 Years Agency Service**

## EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION IN ORANGEBURG

The Employee Appreciation Lunch in Orangeburg was held May 1 at Antley's BBQ. Here are a few employees on the porch at Antley's following the meal: Mike Thomas, Vicki Irick, Walt Woodrum, Larry Moody, and Jody Sikes.



<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Observed on This Day</u>
Confederate Memorial Day	Friday, May 9 (observance)
National Memorial Day	Monday, May 26
Independence Day	Friday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 1
Veterans Day	Tuesday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 27
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 28
Christmas Eve	Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Day	Thursday, December 25
Day After Christmas	Friday, December 26

## Retiree News

**Lynn Rye**, former secretary of Tilghman Nursery and the Sumter Area Office passed away on Friday, May 2. Lynn worked with the agency for 27 years. If you have any news on retirees, please send it to me at [mjohnson@scfc.gov](mailto:mjohnson@scfc.gov). We'd love to hear how they are doing.

**REMINDER to Employees:** I just wanted to remind all employees to please send in your photos and information of events going on in your area regarding the SCFC...any type of recognition ceremony, important meetings, employee fun, and especially fires. I only want to make the Bulletin the best I can and it's hard to do that without information from ALL of the offices. Please keep this in mind and send your information and photos in. Thanks! Send them to: [mjohnson@scfc.gov](mailto:mjohnson@scfc.gov).

## HISTORICAL DATA FOR MONTH OF APRIL

YEAR	FIRES	ACRES
1976	<b>1,966<sup>1</sup></b>	41,361.6
1977	796	2,706.3
1978	1,661	10,907.2
1979	927	3,799.5
1980	627	2,230.6
1981	1,159	5,850.3
1982	797	4,653.1
1983	386	1,098.8
1984	281	1,029.0
1985	1,728	20,759.6
1986	1,529	8,367.0
1987	718	3,355.0
1988	879	4,014.9
1989	479	2,456.9
1990	658	2,491.4
1991	192	702.9
1992	931	6,299.1
1993	606	4,190.2
1994	700	3,638.2
1995	855	4,003.7
1996	690	4,959.1
1997	581	3,345.1
1998	211	882.9
1999	813	4,988.0
2000	406	1,523.2

2001	772	7,900.7
2002	582	6,468.2
2003	98 <sup>2</sup>	422.6 <sup>2</sup>
2004	638	4,604.6
2005	384	2,701.0
2006	642	4,836.3
2007	573	3,669.4
2008	188	921.7
2009	215	21,323.7
2010	406	2,227.7
2011	207	1,772.9
2012	198	1,145.1
2013	146	754.0
2014*	324	2,857.7
10 Year Average	328	4,221.0

<sup>1</sup>Highest on Record for Month of April

<sup>2</sup>Lowest on Record for Month of April

\*as of May 1, 2014

Most acreage burned in the month of April was in 1950 with 65,953.6 acres burned from 1,642 fires.

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



### "Oh Deer"

We are lucky to work in a natural setting. Tonya Steadman took this photo of deer outside of her office window in January. The deer are in the pines and yes, that is the very busy Broad River Road in the background.

Please send in your funny, scenic or interesting photos to [mjohnson@scfc.gov](mailto:mjohnson@scfc.gov).

## SPARTANBURG REGIONAL HEALTH SCREENING

Prevention Partners offers *Regional Screenings* for retirees, employees that have missed a screening held at their own workplace, and those whose worksites are too small to host their own screening. Those subscribing to the State Health Plan and BlueChoice will have the opportunity to participate in a *Regional Screening* on **Thursday, May 15, 2014 at Spartanburg Community College in the Health Sciences Building (Room 115), located at I-85 at New Cut Road in Spartanburg, S.C.**

### Registration

This screening is available for just a \$15 co-payment.

**YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE EARLIEST APPOINTMENT TIME AVAILABLE BY EMAIL.** If you have any questions, please email Carolina Occupational Health Screening Group at [ericwpatch@gmail.com](mailto:ericwpatch@gmail.com) or call 864-834-9078.

### Spartanburg Screening

**Date:** May 15, 2014

**Time:** 7:30- noon

**Where:** Spartanburg Community College in the Health Sciences Building (Room 115), located at I-85 at New Cut Road in Spartanburg

**Registration Deadline:** May 9, 2014

**To register, please complete and mail the registration form attached along with a check for \$15 made payable to COHSG to the following address:**

COHSG – Spartanburg Screening  
P.O. Box 606  
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

**Registration forms, screening components, terms and conditions ,optional tests available, and dates for other upcoming screenings** are posted online one month prior to the screening at <http://www.eip.sc.gov/prevention/>.

### Screening Components

*Health risk appraisal* - a complete wellness profile

*Lipid profile* - Total cholesterol, LDL, HDL, and Triglycerides

*Chemistry profile* - Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN) and Creatinine, Glucose, Electrolytes, Chloride and Bicarbonate

*Hemogram*- Red and white blood cell count, Hemoglobin, and Hematocrit

*Also includes Blood Pressure, Height and Weight*

- There is a 12-hour fast prior to your screening (you may have water and any required medications you may be taking)
- Participants are required to complete all components of this health screening. This includes height, weight, blood pressure, blood draw, and paperwork.
- Your insurance card ID number will be required the day of the screening for claim filing
- Insurance allows for **ONE** Prevention Partners screening per calendar year (January-December) Spouses covered by eligible employees and retirees can participate for a \$15 co-payment. Dependent children are not eligible.
- Spouses covered by eligible employees and retirees can participate for a \$15 co-payment

### Optional Tests

Below is a list of the most popular optional tests and their prices. These optional tests are not required in the basic screening because they are not recommended by the US Preventive Services Task Force for group screenings. Insurance is not filed for these tests, as they are out of pocket expenses. **To add any of these tests to your basic screening, please make a separate check out to COHSG and present it to your healthcare provider the day of the screening.**

Thyroid \$10	CA-125 \$30	Vitamin D, 25-Hydroxy \$56
Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) \$22	Hemoglobin A1c \$30	Blood Type \$17
C-Reactive Protein (CRP) \$17	Homocysteine \$42	



## Cities Harbor 20 Percent of World's Bird Species

Rock Pigeons, House Sparrows, and European Starlings are widely known as "city birds," and with good reason. These three species (plus Barn Swallow) occur in more than 80 percent of cities according to the first-ever global study of biodiversity in urban areas, published earlier this year in Proceedings of the Royal Society. But there's more to cities than this narrow cast of avian urbanites: cities also retain more of their region's native diversity than previously thought, according to the study's analyses of bird and plant census data. So take heart, your next city stroll has much more to offer than just a few ubiquitous species.



In fact, at least 2,041 species—20 percent of all known bird species—live in the world's cities, according to the research. Unlike previous studies, which have focused on single cities or regions, this study spanned six continents, compiling data on birds from 54 cities and plants from 110 cities. The researchers themselves hailed from North America, Europe, Australia, and South Africa.

This means that although there are a few species that can truly be considered ubiquitous "city birds," they are in the minority—a finding that wouldn't have been possible without the global scope of this study. In fact, the list of species that you can find across 80 percent of the world's cities amounts to just the four species mentioned above. The full list of birds found in cities includes nearly three-quarters of all bird families. Cities even provide habitat for rare species, including a total of 36 bird species identified by the IUCN Red List as threatened with extinction, the study said. For many people, this remarkable diversity is often overshadowed by the notion that humans have almost entirely forced nature out of cities. A recent study by a different group showed that many urbanites fail to notice increases in biodiversity even when they happen.

For many city-dwellers, knowledge of just these few species leads them to become more aware of urban biodiversity in general, and encourages them to take pride in their city's non-human life in addition to its human culture. Urbanites are right to realize that cities are by no means ideal habitats for birds. Many species still manage to survive in them, but only around 8 percent as many species are found in cities as in the non-urban areas surrounding them. That's why part of the goal of Celebrate Urban Birds is to inspire people living in cities to take action to support their urban biodiversity.

Cities with the least amount of urban land cover have the highest densities of bird species, according to the study. Parks and community gardens filled with native plants play an important role in maintaining bird species, but providing even small patches of vegetation, like hanging basket plants or container gardens, can help to attract birds to urban areas.

As of now, cities cover only 3 percent of the Earth's terrestrial surface, but this doesn't mean that the effects of urban greening efforts are insignificant. It's not only the size of a city that affects biodiversity—location is important too.

Cities may only take up 3 percent of the Earth's land cover, but they are currently home to more than half of the world's human population. This makes increasing awareness of biodiversity in cities even more crucial, because people can't care about or protect things that they don't notice. But actions as simple as participating in a citizen science project like Celebrate Urban Birds can open one's eyes to biodiversity for a lifetime

[Cornell Lab of Ornithology <http://blog.allaboutbirds.org/2014/04/29/not-just-sparrows-and-pigeons-cities-harbor-20-percent-of-worlds-bird-species/>]

## EVER WONDER?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?



## Vin Vasive: A Creep With a Mission

The federal government has a long history of using mascots to get the public to pay attention to various public policy initiatives. Woodsy Owl warns people not to pollute, while Smokey Bear cautions about forest fires. More recently, Rex, the Homeland Security mountain lion, has urged people to prepare for emergencies. Several years ago, the Energy Department created the miner Yucca Mountain Johnny to tout the nuclear-waste repository in Nevada.

The new character "Vin Vasive" wants to remind Americans that firewood, mud and vegetables can take pests across state lines. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) contribution is a rare villain in the mascot panoply, "Vin Vasive," and the agency, which is part of the Agriculture Department, is trying to revive interest in Vin and his mission: to warn Americans about the dangers posed by invasive species that have found their way to the United States from other countries and are now killing domestic plants and animals.



*Vin Vasive*

The Department is rolling out a series of videos featuring Vin starting this month, which happens to be Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month. The first warns people not to move firewood, because invasive pests can make a home in it and be spread to other areas. "Always buy local and burn local," the ad warns.

Vin Vasive is a man-size bug with a spooky voice. He was created in 2012 by the Annapolis, Md., advertising firm Crosby. The videos will appear on the USDA's "Hungry Pests" Facebook and YouTube pages this spring and summer.

Invasive species "have already cost the U.S. billions of dollars and threaten many aspects of our everyday lives, from the food on our tables to the forests we camp in to the flowers in our gardens," says Osama El-Lissy, deputy administrator of the Agriculture Department's plant protection and quarantine program. "When people are out hiking, gardening and traveling this spring and summer, we are asking them to be extra vigilant." The Agriculture Department is particularly worried about the spread of four moths (the European grapevine moth, false-codling moth, gypsy moth and light-brown apple moth), three flies (the Mediterranean fruit fly, Mexican fruit fly and Oriental fruit fly), three beetles (the Asian long-horned beetle, emerald ash borer and Khapra beetle), one ant (the imported fire ant) and one snail (the giant African snail), as well as the citrus psyllid, a bug from Asia that kills citrus trees.

In addition to using only local firewood, Vin wants people to buy plants only from reputable sources, to not transport across state lines any fresh fruit or vegetables that haven't been inspected by government officials, to wash their gear and tires before leaving fishing, hunting or camping areas, and to clean their lawn furniture before moving.



# Fire Activity & Weather Outlook



## Southern Wildfire Activity

The Southern area experienced generally light initial attack activity last week. Florida and Texas, however, experienced moderate large wildfire activity. This past weekend wildfire activity increased across a number of states on the western and eastern portion of the region including AR, LA, TX, OK, NC and GA. The entire region will likely experience an increase in initial attack due to length of time since the last rain event and the low humidity. Another wet weather system should begin to enter the west side of the region on Wednesday. This system will not only bring rain to most of the region but also much higher humidity values. Currently, the east side of the region will not be influenced by this system. Therefore, wildfire activity will likely be on the increase for the remainder of the week in FL, GA, TN, NC, SC and VA. The region is currently staffed with a normal amount of IHCs and helicopters for this time of the year. A CL-415 air tanker has been positioned in Lake City, FL.

### May

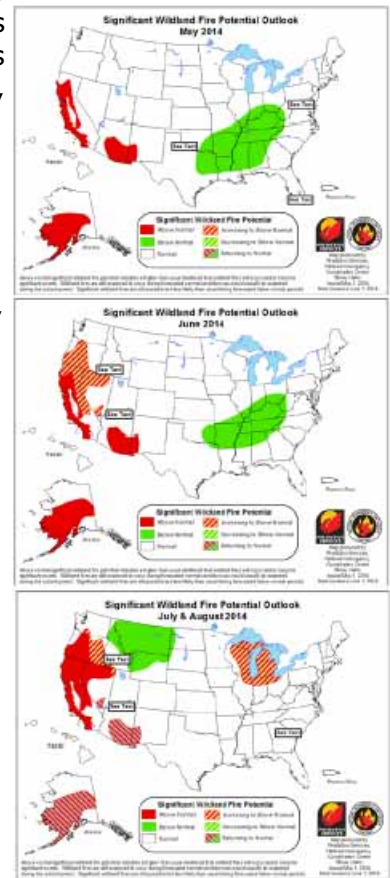
- Above normal fire potential will be over much of California, southern Arizona, and southwestern New Mexico. Most of southern Alaska will have above normal fire potential.
- Below normal fire potential will continue for most of the Ohio, Tennessee, and lower Mississippi Valleys, the central Gulf Coast; eastern Texas and eastern Oklahoma.

### June

- Above normal fire potential will expand to include northern California, Nevada, and much of Oregon. Most of Alaska will continue to see above normal significant fire potential.
- Below normal fire potential will continue over the lower and mid-Mississippi, Tennessee and Ohio Valleys.

### July through August

- Above normal fire potential will remain in most of California, northern Nevada, and central Oregon. Above normal fire potential will expand into eastern Oregon, southwestern Idaho, and the Great Lakes region.
- Southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico and Alaska will return to normal fire potential.
- Below normal fire potential will cover most of the northern Rockies.

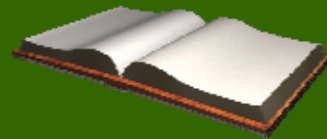


# Current Fire Numbers for South Carolina

## MONTH and YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS 5 AND 10 YEAR AVERAGE

Time Period	MAY		JULY-MAY		FISCAL YEAR	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
5 Year Average	101	548.1	2,030	17,011.1	2,145	17,751.4
10 Year Average	159	786.7	2,457	16,801.2	2,605	17,747.7
Current FY <sup>1</sup>	45	178.3	1,602	8,156.9	1,602	8,156.9

<sup>1</sup>To date for current fiscal year



# The History Corner

## NOW AND THEN

In the next several Bulletins I will be comparing old and recent photos of areas/items around the agency and state. Our state has changed tremendously since most of us were born, and the agency has drastically changed since it was created in 1927. Enjoy the changes!

If you have any photos you would like to share, just send them to me!

## Fire Detection



Before 1993, fires were detected by lookout tower operators. Barbara Porter was the tower operator in Black River Tower.



Aerial detection is also used.



Today the dispatch centers receive calls about wildfires from the public and other emergency agencies.

Dispatcher Barbara Porter in the Pee Dee Dispatch Center.



South Carolina Forestry Commission  
Employee—Weekly News Bulletin

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Log on:  
[www.trees.sc.gov](http://www.trees.sc.gov)



May 28, 2014

## TREE COUNTRY SC

*From the desk of...*

**STATE FORESTER**  
**Gene Kodama**



*Good day,*

***We have had a very busy and productive month of May with two long holiday weekends, the General Assembly in session, association meetings, some wildfire activity, and state government employee appreciation events.***

***I attended a dual meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota of the Coalition of Western State Foresters and the Western Forestry Leadership Council. I attended these meetings as Chairman of the National Association of State Foresters Forest Markets Committee to update these organizations on the Markets Committee activities and to allow the Committee to be more effective in helping to address western market issues. The vision of the Committee is to stop the decline in our country's share of world wood markets which has been dramatic since 2000. As we heard earlier, the primary problem with western states losing market share is the big decline in the harvest of wood on USFS National Forests that has shut down much of their forest product manufacturing. From 1976 to 2006 the harvest of timber on National Forests dropped by a factor of 5 so that their timber production is only about 20% of the volume it was 40 years ago. In contrast, timber harvests from private land over this period increased by 50%. So, the Markets Committee will focus its efforts on National Forests' timber production in the West and connections to markets. In the East, the Committee will continue to work on improving existing markets and opening new ones.***



*Gene Kodama presented an update on NASF Forest Markets Committee activities to the Council of Western State Foresters.*

***Here in South Carolina, our forest industry is doing well thanks to an improving economy and record levels of wood in our forests. Most harvesting, processing, and manufacturing is running at full capacity with many mills making capital improvements and expanding production in response to increased demand. Of course the February ice storm had a major impact on the wood resource across half of our counties to the tune of \$360 million, but the immediate impacts were primarily in medium age pine plantations that had been recently thinned. Where possible and needed, many of the worst damaged stands have been harvested and are being prepped for replanting. After salvage***

*(Continued on page 2)*

**NOTE:** The next Bulletin will be June 18.

**and reforestation operations are completed, the impact of the storm will be felt in future years when the reduction in available wood and reductions in timber quality will be felt. The storm did intensify the need for more active management of SC forests including tree planting to increase wood production and for additional sawmilling to use more of the record levels of available pine sawtimber and generate more chips to compensate for less pulpwood being available.**

**On budgeting, the differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget are being worked out by staff members and will probably not utilize a conference committee for this process. The budget will then go to the Governor for her review and any vetoes that would have to be addressed by the General Assembly. This budget will become effective on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Both the House and Senate budgets contain funding for additional Commission positions and equipment funding. Both chambers' budgets also contain funding for a 1.5% salary increase for all state employees and full funding for the coming increase in health insurance premiums for next year which would equate to a 3.9% salary increase.**

**Last week, Tom Patton, Russell Hubright, Darryl Jones, Lowe Sharpe, Herb Nicholson, and I attended the annual Southern Group of State Foresters meeting. Russell, Darryl, Lowe, and Herb participate on the Forest Management, Forest Protection and Fire, Urban and Community Forestry, and Water Resources Committees, respectively. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry did a wonderful job of hosting the meeting which was both enjoyable and productive. Key topics included USFS and NRCS partnerships on funding and programs, landowner outreach on forest management, consulting forester and extension relationships, National Wild Turkey Federation's Save the Habitat - Save the Hunt, SGSF branding and new logo, National Association of State Foresters, and visits with exhibiting forestry vendors.**

**This week, we had a federal holiday, Memorial Day, a day to remember those who died while serving our country to ensure that we continue to be free and have the opportunities that the founders of the United States established. This day was formerly known as "Decoration Day" and observed as a day to decorate the graves of those who died during the Civil War, which exceeded 600,000. "Decoration Day" gradually became known as "Memorial Day," a name that started in 1882. The new name became official with the passage of a federal law in 1967. So, holidays are a nice reprieve from routine work, but we must all remember that "freedom is not free" and continue to support our country's founding principles and support our military personnel past and present.**

**Have a great day!**

**Gene**



Gene Kodama presenting Louisiana State Forester Wade Dubea the SCFC Challenge Coin for hosting a productive SGSF meeting.



New SGSF logo.



Photo of National Cemetery by National Park Service.

## ADMINISTRATION—Larry Moody

### Fiscal Year-End

The end of another fiscal year is approaching and both the Purchasing Department and Accounting Department request your assistance to ensure payments are made and recorded in the correct fiscal year. **All non-essential spending should be stopped during June. This includes Visa card purchases and travel.** Non-essential spending would include items you want but not necessarily need.

**DEPOSITS** – All deposit slips transmitted for Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014 pertaining to Fiscal Month 12 must be received in the State Treasurer's Office no later than 10:30 A.M. on Tuesday, July 8, 2014. Submit all receipts on hand as of June 30, 2014 to the Accounting Department no later than 5 P.M. on Wednesday, July 2, 2014.

**PETTY CASH** – All Petty Cash Accounts should have a \$500.00 balance as of June 30, 2014. No Petty Cash checks are to be written after June 13, 2014. Each Petty Cash Custodian should submit a purchase order to replenish their account immediately after June 13, 2014. This will allow both Purchasing and Accounting time to review purchase orders, process purchase orders, receive checks from the Treasurer's Office and deposit funds in Petty Cash Accounts prior to June 30, 2014.

Object codes are to be written on each Petty Cash receipt.

**PAYMENTS** – All goods and services **RECEIVED** on or before June 30, 2014 **must** be paid with Fiscal Year 2014 funds, according to the State Appropriations Act. After July 14, the Comptroller General's Office will not issue a check using current year's funds for expenditures or travel incurred prior to June 30, 2014. **Do not combine any travel documents for the month of June and July. Travel documents received too late to process by the July 14 cutoff date will not be paid.** Processing an invoice can take up to 7 days during year-end closeout; **submit all invoices for goods and services RECEIVED on or before June 30, 2014 to Accounting no later than Monday, July 7, 2014.**

During July, two fiscal years (previous and new) are open in SCEIS. Fiscal Month (FM13) is open to process payments for goods and services received on or before June 30, 2014, but for which invoices were received after that date. The Comptroller General's Office will accept FM13 transactions until July 14, 2014. Fiscal Month (FM01) is open to process payments for goods or services received after June 30, 2014 for new fiscal year appropriations. **Transactions for FM13 and FM01 must be entered on separate input documents and batched separately.**

At year-end closeout, the volume of work increases in Accounts Payable, so please remember to send the original invoice and 1 copy of the invoice to Accounts Payable. For all travel documents submit the original travel document plus the Travel Form A.

Personnel reviewing monthly Visa receipts and reallocating cost should begin their reviews immediately after the billing cycle ends on June 27, 2014. Submit all Visa information to Emily Smith by Thursday, July 3, 2014.

**URGENT VISA information – if you use the Visa to pay Registration fees then you MUST provide Accounting with the Registration form and the Travel Form B approved by your supervisor. If we have to continue to track these forms down then we will not allow you to use the Visa card for registration fees in the future!**

**UTILITIES AND PHONE PAYMENTS** – Check all tracking sheets to ensure 12 payments have been made. Send all tracking sheets to Emily Smith by July 30, 2014. If you have not made 12 payments please contact the utility company to insure the invoice is received and paid before the July 14 cutoff date.

(Continued from page 3)

## **Fiscal Year-End**

**PURCHASING CUTOFF** – All purchases made by field purchase orders, and regular purchase orders, are to be completed by Friday, **June 13, 2014**. The only exceptions will be for emergencies. Invoices received for routine services such as utilities, copier leases, and etc. are to be processed immediately upon receipt and sent to Accounting for payment.

**YEAR-END CLOSE/COMPENSATED ABSENCES** — As part of the Year-end Close Report, the agency is responsible for reporting the liability of all employees accumulated unused annual leave hours, unused holiday compensatory hours, and unused overtime compensatory hours. It is important for employees and supervisors to ensure that leave requested is entered and approved current or leave projected to be taken by June 30<sup>th</sup> is entered and approved in SCEIS before June 30, 2014. Please contact the Human Resources Office if you have any questions.

## **CURRENT JOB OPENINGS**

**JOB TITLE:** Forester I

**LOCATION:** Orangeburg County, South Carolina

**CLOSING DATE:** 5/30/2014

**AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MIN:** \$32,145.00 **AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MAX:** \$33,752.00

**RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT SPECIFICS (IF ANY):** This position works in Calhoun/Orangeburg Counties.

### **JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Recommends and promotes sound forestry management practices to landowners to include examination of woodland and preparation of complete forest management plans. Assists landowners in implementing recommendations. Conducts prescribed burns; responds to wildland fires; performs forest fire suppression duties; marks and estimates volume on any stand of timber requested. Provides technical assistance in specialized areas of forestry to include best management practices, urban forestry and conducting insect/disease surveys. Provides information to the public regarding state forests and forestry services.

### **MINIMUM AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

A bachelor's degree in forestry from a college or university accredited by the Society of American Foresters (SAF). Registration as a Forester within two (2) years of employment. Must pass a physical fitness test of walking two (2) miles in thirty (30) minutes carry a 25 lb. pack. Criminal background check required. Must obtain firefighter registration with the South Carolina State Fire Marshall's Office.

## *Quote of the Week*

***Your work is going to fill a large part of your life and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do.***

Steve Jobs



## Employee News

**Scott Danskin** accepted the position of Forest Resource Analyst under Tim Adams. Scott began his duties on May 17th in Columbia.

**Scott Hawkins**, agency Spokesperson, will be leaving the Forestry Commission effective June 2, 2014. Scott has accepted a position as Public Information Director II with the Budget and Control Board. Although, we hate to see him go, please join me in wishing Scott well in his new endeavor.

Two Piedmont forest technicians have announced their retirement. **Dennis Sipes** will retire on May 31st and **James White** on June 30, 2014. We will miss them and hope they have a happy retirement.

We would like to welcome 3 new employees to the agency: Benjamin Kendall, Tammie Nana, and Hamp Holmes.

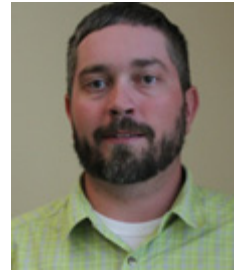


Tammie Nana

**Ben Kendall** started on May 19<sup>th</sup> as the project forester in Saluda, Edgefield, and McCormick Counties. Ben has a Bachelor's Degree in Forest Resource Management from Clemson, and Masters of Forest Resources Degree from Clemson, plus four years of experience with Clemson Experimental Forest. Ben resides in Batesburg.

**Tammie Denise Nana** started on May 19<sup>th</sup> as the Piedmont Dispatch Coordinator. Tammie lives in Newberry with her husband and four children. She attended Midland Technical College and was the Supervisor of Dispatch for the SC Department of Mental Health. Tammie enjoys reading and watching movies.

**Hamp Holmes, III** started on May 2<sup>nd</sup> as the Nursery Supervisor at Taylor Nursery in Trenton. Hamp attended Strom Thurmond High School and the Augusta Technical Institute. He previously worked at Taylor in the early 1990's but left to work for the private sector. Hamp lives in Trenton with his wife and daughter. He is also a member of the Trenton Fire Department.



Ben Kendall



Hamp Holmes III

## BLACK RIVER UNIT—Ron Holt

### Ice Damage Assistance Appreciation

We are currently gathering the last CRP and EFRP tracts from USDA Farm Service Administration county offices and are finally on the downslope for ice damage assessments. We are already returning to tracts that have been harvested since our initial visits and making replanting recommendations.

Chet, Eric, and I would like to give a big **THANK YOU** to all of those that have helped us with this large workload both locally and from the Piedmont. I appreciate the fact that many of these folks spent time away from their homes and families and stayed in hotels as well as conducted these site visits while their own workloads were building. Some of these folks continue to help us as we look forward to finalizing the requests. I would also like to thank the supervisors of these folks as well for parting with their employees for a few days!

#### Piedmont

Roy Boyd  
Trey Cox  
Chase Folk  
Jaime Jones  
Gretchen Spaulding  
Michael Weeks (came twice)

#### Pee Dee

James Brunson  
Drake Carroll  
Mike Ney  
Tonya Smith

## Hobcaw Barony Named Stewardship Forest

The Belle W. Baruch Foundation was presented its "Stewardship Forest" recognition for Hobcaw Barony on Tuesday, May 13th on the property in Georgetown County. Hobcaw received the award for their forest and wildlife management accomplishments from Stewardship Coordinator Scott Phillips. Pee Dee Stewardship Forester James Brunson and Black River forester Chet Foyle were also on hand for the presentation to the Foundation Board. Hobcaw is the 7th forest in South Carolina to receive the "Stewardship Forest" recognition this year and the 223rd since the program began in South Carolina.

The Belle W. Baruch Foundation is a private, non-profit foundation created through the vision of Belle Wilcox Baruch and owns the 15,961-acre, Hobcaw Barony. The foundation's primary mission is to conserve Hobcaw Barony's unique natural and cultural resources for research and education. The privately owned research and wildlife reserve, located on the coast near Georgetown encompasses a rich diversity of every common ecosystem found on the South Carolina coast, making this an unparalleled site for research in the environmental sciences.

Hobcaw Barony received recognition for its ongoing contribution to the sound management of South Carolina's precious natural resources and efforts to improve the environment for the benefit of present and future generations. Hobcaw is managed for timber, wildlife, aesthetics, recreation, and most-of-all educational research. Scott Phillips stated at the presentation ceremony that the Belle W. Baruch Foundation has shown exceptional efforts in managing the lands of Hobcaw with a great management plan and he is "really excited to have Hobcaw become a Stewardship Forest. This is a great example of multiple use management." George Chastain, Executive Director of the Belle W. Baruch Foundation added that Hobcaw has a Board approved 10-year management plan with the primary objective of research and education. Secondary objectives are managing for unique and endangered species and timber management to help with operational costs. The plan includes prescribed burning, timber harvesting, and wildlife management. The plan is looked at annually and is amended as necessary. Chastain said "it is an honor to be recognized as a Stewardship Forest."

The Forest Stewardship Program is a national program of the USDA Forest Service, administered in South Carolina by the Forestry Commission. The program assists the landowner in identifying his or her management objectives for timber, wildlife, recreation, water, aesthetics, and/or soil protection. Because the program is a cooperative effort among several agencies, a landowner can receive free expert advice and a written management plan prepared by a management team comprised of a forester, wildlife biologist, and soil conservationists. After receiving the Stewardship Plan, a landowner who actively manages this property in the spirit of the program can be nominated to become a *South Carolina Forest Steward*. More than 4,000 South Carolina landowners have enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program; fewer than 250 properties have been recognized as a "Stewardship Forest." Anyone who owns 10 or more acres with at least five acres in woodlands is qualified to participate in the program. For more information about Forest Stewardship, contact your local office of the South Carolina Forestry Commission.



*Chet Foyle, Scott Phillips and James Brunson (far right) present the Belle W. Baruch Foundation their Stewardship recognition.*



*One of the beautiful stands of longleaf on Hobcaw.*



*Scott Phillips explains the Stewardship Forest Program.*

## Hobcaw Barony Opens New Boardwalk

Hobcaw Barony in Georgetown County recently opened a new boardwalk named the Tar Kiln Swamp Boardwalk. The 157-foot wooden boardwalk was opened in a ceremony on May 13th with the assistance of the Belle W. Baruch Foundation Board members and representatives from the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation and ArcelorMittal.

The new boardwalk gives access to a beautiful tupelo and cypress plantation in a swamp habitat for research studies and educational tours, as well as bird watchers. The Francis P. Bunnelle Foundation and ArcelorMittal donated funds to



*Executive Director of the Belle W. Baruch Foundation George Chastain explains the story behind the name of the boardwalk.*



*Dr. William Conner comments on his research in the area as Trustee Dr. Dale Rosengarten and special guest Tony Curto (and others) listen.*



construct the boardwalk and to create K-12 lesson plans of forested wetlands. The lesson plans will be created in house by our staff (Trista Hyman) and conducted on site utilizing the boardwalk. All lesson plans will be tied to the SC state standards.

The name Tar Kiln Swamp Boardwalk is a reminder of the importance of the former export of naval stores. There were fourteen tar kilns located on Hobcaw and one was located on the road to the new boardwalk.

Dr. William Conner, Professor of Forestry at Clemson's Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Sciences, performs tree growth research studies on the swamp. Dr. Conner has been recording data and measurements since 1991 on Hobcaw Barony and some of his plots are in the new boardwalk area.

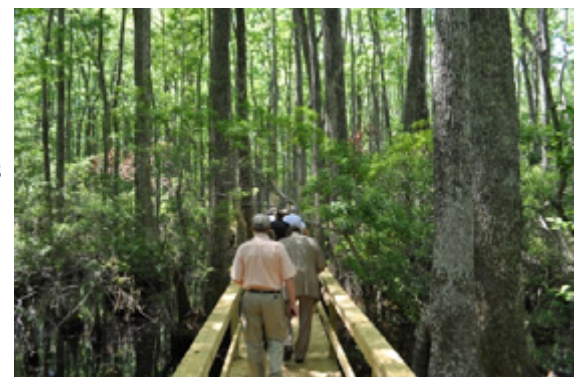
*Beautiful tupelo and cypress stand is now accessible.*



*George Chastain, members of the Belle W. Baruch Foundation, the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation, and ArcelorMittal cut the ribbon opening the new boardwalk.*



*The new boardwalk.*



*Attendees walk down the Tar Kiln Swamp Boardwalk.*

## AROUND THE STATE

### Abbeville Spring Festival

Piedmont West Unit Forester Michael Weeks, Supervisor Robert Jones and forest technician Clay Cooper manned a "Services" exhibit at the Abbeville Spring Festival on May 3rd.

*Michael Weeks and Clay Cooper with Michaela Bramlette (Michael's girlfriend's daughter), Thomas Chandler (Robert Jones' grandson), and one of the many festival goers.*



### Law Enforcement Training

On Monday, May 12th the second portion of the agency's law enforcement officers from all over the state attended the Spring In-Service training in Columbia. After classroom sessions, the group went to the SC Criminal Justice Academy firing range for firearms recertification.



*Law enforcement officers listen as Steve Ward instructs on tasers.*



### Abbeville County Landowner Association

Piedmont BMP Forester Holly Welch spoke to the Abbeville County Forest Landowner's Association on May 19th. The topic of the meeting was "Best Management Practices for Biomass Harvesting."



### Hunt Sworn in as Law Enforcement Officer

On May 12, 2014 Timothy Hunt was sworn in as a law enforcement officer by Law Enforcement Chief David West at the Columbia Headquarters. Timothy works at Sand Hills State Forest and will assist with law enforcement in the Pee Dee region. Congratulations Tim!



## AROUND THE STATE



### Coast to the Capital

The SC Forestry Commission and other law enforcement agencies participated in the Coast to the Capital Run that started on Sullivan's Island on May 8<sup>th</sup> and continued 127 miles to Columbia. Jonathan Calore, Herb Nicholson, and Brian Davis participated in the run with Trip Miller joining them for the final leg of the run on May 9<sup>th</sup> from the State House to Fort Jackson for the Opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics.

These 4 officers received roughly \$1,600 in donations to benefit Special Olympics. Pictured is Calore with flame and Nicholson in the back with green hat.

### Sharpe Earns Certified Arborist Credential

Lowie Sharpe earned the ISA Certified Arborist credential by successfully completing the Certified Arborist exam administered by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and the local chapter of ISA on May 5, 2014.

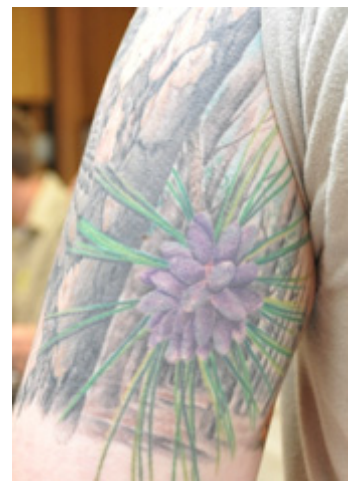
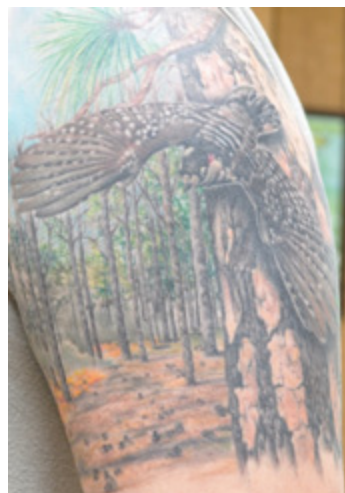
The ISA Credentialing Program is a voluntary program designed to test an individual's degree of knowledge in the field of arboriculture. Individuals are required to pass an exam that certifies their knowledge about tree care and maintenance. Certification is valid for three years and individuals are required to obtain continuing education units.

The program is designed to increase the standard of practice in the tree care industry and to promote the professional development to individual practicing arborists. Credentialing also assists the public in identifying qualified tree care professionals. ISA Certified Arborists agree to a code of ethics and are provided a verification card with their certification number. When contracting for tree care work, contact arborists who hold an ISA credential. Verification of credential holders is available online at [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).



### A "WORK" OF ART

Talking about wearing your work on your sleeve... Sand Hills forest technician AJ Rabon recently got a full color tattoo on his left arm showing a red-cockaded woodpecker in a pine forest being prescribed burned. The tattoo took nineteen hours to ink and it is beautiful. AJ showed the artist three photos and let her combine them into one big tattoo.



## PIEDMONT WEST—Ray Cassell

### Brown's Bottom Fire

Have you ever had one of those days where your past firefighting experience was warning you that your current plans to conduct a controlled burn may have to be postponed? Such a day occurred on April 2, plans were to conduct prescribed burns in Greenville and Anderson Counties. After receiving the morning weather forecast (winds gusting to 15 mph and relative humidity around 18%) we quickly realized that these conditions were outside our prescribed burn plan and thus resulted in our postponement of our planned prescribed burns.

A few hours after that decision was made the wildfire starts began. The first call was a powerline down with a fire moving quickly. When we (Ronnie Patterson and I) were enroute, additional size up information became available denoting that several houses were being threatened by the wildfire. When we arrived, we had to start plowing behind the homes that were in immediate danger. We wound up with four SCFC tractors responding to this fire along with structure protection crews provided by local fire departments from Pickens and Oconee Counties. Two highways were closed and a total of 100 acres burned. The humidity that afternoon dropped to 9% at the fire scene and the wind was blowing at 20+ mph. While fighting this fire, at about 50% containment, another fire popped up in Greenville County. This fire ended up burning 50 acres on a mountain near Jones Gap. Thankfully we had tractor operators available and not on a controlled burn so the mountain fire was quickly contained.



*Brown's Bottom Fire*

So the lesson learned is to use your firefighting experience, monitor the daily weather forecast and maintain situational awareness as you start each day as all these factors may result in a quicker response and the saving of homes and resources (acres) as occurred in these fires. What could have been a disastrous day resulted in timely and efficient responses due to the recognition of the hazardous weather conditions predicted that morning.

## A FEW MORE PUNS

A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The Stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly, it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says, 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'



## ATTA' BOYS

In an email sent to State Forester Gene Kodama on May 12 from Joey Ferguson (Manager of SC Region, Resource Management Service, LLC) regarding firefighters in **Marion County**:

Gene,

*Just a note of appreciation for the role SCFC personnel played in minimizing loss and damage to our property in Marion county late afternoon this past Friday.*

*Apparently a fire started at the intersection of Old Marion Road and the big power line around 1430 hours, then burned through about 120 acres of juvenile plantation. Fire was contained at approximately 1730 hours.*

*It's amazing that it is still too wet to log in many places in this bay, yet not too wet to burn! This indicates that the duff is getting pretty dry on the surface and very able to start/carry a fire.*

*The following SCFC personnel were involved on site:*

*Brandon Craig – Fire Boss – Marion/Horry County  
Lynn Collins – Tractor – Marion County  
Jeff Rogers – Tractor – Marion County  
B J Sturgeon – Tractor – Dillon County  
Eddie Freeman – Tractor – Florence County  
Roger Jordan – Tractor – Horry County*

*Fire Departments on scene: Marion Rural Fire Department, Temperance Hill Rural Fire Department, Pee Dee Rural Fire Department, Marion Fire Department*

*Other Support: Marion County Police (Traffic Control), and FEMA/ Emergency Management (Command Center Operation),*

*Please extend our thanks to Brandon and his team for their time and effort in containing this fire.*

*Regards,  
Joey Ferguson*



In an email to Gene Kodama from Technology Division Director Jeff Baumann dated May 21, 2014 regarding **Billy Cockrell**:

*I just wanted to let you know that I greatly appreciated Billy Cockrell's timely assistance yesterday with the Columbia backup generator.*

*In reviewing generator activity recorded by our dispatch centers yesterday morning, I noticed that the Columbia Office generator wasn't listed as having exercised for the past two weeks. On further examination of the generator, the High Coolant Temperature Lamp was on. This is an indication of the coolant temperature is too high or the coolant level is too low. There was no coolant in the overflow container or visible in the radiator after removing the radiator cap.*

*After adding a gallon of coolant, you could hear it begin to circulate through the engine heater system. But it was also being pumped out through a crack in one of the coolant hoses. Scott Drafts and I had just met with Billy at the warehouse to discuss computer issues and network connection options with him. Knowing that Billy was around, I called to see if he could assist us.*

*Billy removed the damaged coolant hose and offered to run to the auto part store to get a replacement and additional coolant. Within a few minutes of returning, he had the new hose connected and coolant system filled. The generator was operational again.*

*What made this such a timely repair is that the Columbia Office lost commercial power later that afternoon from 3:17 PM to 3:38 PM. The generator automatically started up and provide backup power to the Columbia Office emergency systems until commercial power was restored.*

## FIREWISE—Bill Wiley

### Activities

It has been a busy time for the Firewise Program. Drake Carroll hit the ground running once he was named to the Coastal Firewise Field Coordinator position. He already had a long list of communities requesting assistance and he and local Forestry Commission personnel have been working steadily to meet with communities for Firewise assessments and write Community Wildfire Protection Plans. His report will follow later.

On May 14, Steve Moore, Drake Carroll and Bill Wiley met in Myrtle Beach, SC with Dave Nuss and Cheryl Blake of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to discuss plans for the national Backyards and Beyond Firewise Conference to be held in Myrtle Beach October 22-24, 2015. This is the premier conference for Firewise programs nationwide and internationally and the 2015 conference will be the first time the conference has been held on the east coast. More about this conference will be reported as the conference approaches.



On May 5, 2014, Bill Wiley and Captain Tim Rainbolt of Horry County Fire Rescue gave a PowerPoint presentation, with assistance from Drake Carroll, to the SC Fire & Life Safety Educators Conference. Most of those attending have Public Education roles with their respective fire departments. We made several important contacts that will lead to future Firewise assessments and plans.

*Fluffy pine straw mulch under the deck caused this home to burn.*

In addition to working on continuing projects, the Upstate Firewise Program has been very busy with new projects. In March, Scott Hawkins, Commission Media Spokesperson was contacted by reporter Nate Cary of *The Greenville News* for an article on Firewise. Bill Wiley, Upstate Firewise Field Coordinator, was interviewed on the morning of April 2, 2014. Later that same day a wildfire that started on the roadside burned into the Riverwood Farms subdivision in Greer, SC. Though not a woods fire and Forestry Commission assistance was not requested, it was a wildfire that destroyed 4 homes and damaged several others. Reporter Nate Cary also covered that fire. Nate saw many of the concerns discussed with Bill Wiley that morning, such as flammable pine straw mulch next to flammable home components and flammable landscape plants. The article on the fire also mentioned several practices homeowners can take to protect their homes from wildfires.

As a follow up to that fire and others on April 2 that threatened nearby homes, Scott Hawkins sent an article to all news media dealing with Spring Cleanup in yards and Firewise landscaping principles from NFPA. As a result of that article, we were contacted by Dr. Robert Polomski, Clemson University Extension Horticulturist for a radio segment to be broadcast during the midday SCETV *Your Day* program. Bill Wiley was also interviewed for that segment, answering general questions about Firewise and specifics on landscape plants and yard maintenance as well as outdoor debris burning. The program with that segment is scheduled to air on June 30.

Additionally, St. James Place, across the road from Riverwood Farms in Greer contacted us for an assessment and plan of action to help protect their community. Embers from the Riverwood Farms fire landed at the St. James Place entrance. Their assessment was done in early May and a follow-up meeting with the community is scheduled for June; they plan to apply for Firewise Community/USA recognition. Bill is also working with the local fire departments in and near Greer for a meeting with Riverwood Farms to be held soon. *The Greenville News* plans a follow-up article after those meetings.

All of this Firewise activity would not be possible without the assistance of local Forestry Commission personnel, especially Unit Foresters and Supervisors.



## Georgia Governor Deal Approves Use of Wood in School Construction

The Georgia Forestry Association commends Governor Nathan Deal who recently signed legislation that allows for greater use of wood materials in public school facilities, providing K-12 schools throughout the state with alternative, cost-effective, and sustainable design options.

Governor Nathan Deal recently signed legislation that allows for greater use of wood materials in public school facilities, providing K-12 schools throughout the state with alternative, cost-effective, and sustainable design options. Senate Bill 301, sponsored by Senator Fran Millar, R-Atlanta, removes language from the Georgia Department of Education (DOE) Guideline for Educational Facility Construction that prohibited the use of light wood framing (or wood stud partitioning) and ordinary wood construction. The bill provides school administrators and design professionals with the option to use wood materials as a design alternative – a standard that is readily accepted in the International Building Code.

“Removing any barrier to the use of wood grown by Georgia landowners and milled by Georgia manufacturers is good for the forestry economy and the continued sustainability of Georgia’s timberland,” Georgia Forestry Association (GFA) President Steve McWilliams said. “This new option could save taxpayers a significant amount of money and create more sustainable structures while making use of a Georgia-grown renewable resource.”

Wood-constructed schools meet the same standards for life safety while providing much needed advantages related to cost, speed of construction, design flexibility, energy efficiency and sustainability. In recent years, states such as Arkansas and South Carolina have removed similar bans and have uncovered huge savings. Following Arkansas’ legislative change, the following cost savings examples have been cited in cases where the school was originally designed in steel or concrete and was converted to wood framing:

- Eldorado High School, 318,000 square feet, wood framing saved \$20 per square foot for a total of \$6,360,000 in savings for the district.
- Newport Elementary School, 125,000 square feet, wood framing saved \$21 per square foot for a total of \$2,625,000 in savings for the district.
- Fountain Lake Middle School, 48,000 square feet, wood framing saved \$40 per square foot for a total savings of \$1,920,000 for the district.

In addition to the cost savings, studies consistently show that wood outperforms other materials such as in terms of embodied energy, air and water pollution, and global warming potential. Wood contributes significantly to a building’s energy efficiency and helps reduce its carbon footprint. The environmental impacts for wood products have been further documented in third-party verified Environmental Product Declarations, which are available at: <http://www.awc.org/greenbuilding/epd.php>.

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## County of Lexington Recycle Day – 9 am to 10 pm on June 14, 2014

### Electronic Waste Collection

Computers, Monitors, TV’s, VCR’s, Microwaves, Printers, Phones, and more! No items with Freon, please. Limit 8 items per visit.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection:** Fertilizers, Cleaners, Fire Extinguishers, Fluorescent Tubes, Acid Waste and more, INCLUDING PAINT! Must register each HHW item by June 4th.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED** for HHW drop-off. Call (803) 785-3340 or email [aedwards@lex-co.com](mailto:aedwards@lex-co.com) to register! For more information, please visit the Lexington County Solid Waste Management website at [www.lex-co.sc.gov](http://www.lex-co.sc.gov)/recycling or contact them at (803) 785-3340.

County of Lexington Recycle Day Location” 2515 Sunset Boulevard, West Columbia (Old Quincy’s Location) - Entrance on Chris Dr.

Brought to you by: County of Lexington Solid Waste Management and Public Works Stormwater Division in partnership with Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium. Location provided by Maurice’s Piggy Park.



## Stewardship Signs... a Product of Learning

The Darlington County Institute of Technology recently made twenty-five metal sign posts for the Stewardship Program. Mr. Al Gray's Agriculture Class designed and constructed the new sign posts for the Stewardship Forest signs that landowners get when approved. Pee Dee Stewardship forester handled the cooperative project. The class measured and

designed the sign posts before the construction phase began. Students had to use their newly acquired skills to weld, drill, fabricate, and paint the sign posts.



*James Brunson and Al Gray with a sign post designed and constructed by the agriculture students.*



*Students from the Darlington County Institute of Technology pose with James Brunson and Mr. Gray with a Stewardship sign on a finished post.*

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



### "May the Force"

Pilot Sam Anderson sent in this photo he took of a bumper sticker on a vehicle on Broad River Road. It reads "May the Forest be with you."

Please send in your funny, scenic or interesting photos to [mjohnson@scfc.gov](mailto:mjohnson@scfc.gov).

## New Director Named for Clemson Extension



Thomas R. (Tom) Dobbins has been named director of Clemson University's Cooperative Extension Service. Clemson Extension takes the university to the people through a statewide network of county offices. Extension agents share university research in agriculture, forestry and natural resources with large- and small-scale farmers, foresters and land managers in all 46 South Carolina counties.

Dobbins earned a Ph.D. in vocational-technical education from Virginia Tech, a master's degree in dairy science and a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from Clemson and an associate's degree in agriculture from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

He currently serves as professor and coordinator for the undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare Clemson students to teach agriculture in high schools across the state, as well as chairman of the agriculture division in Clemson's [School of Agricultural, Forest and Environmental Sciences](#), where he leads strategic planning for the agricultural courses taught at Clemson. He continues to teach courses in curriculum development and teaching methods. His Extension career includes positions as a county agent, area agent and Extension associate, with a focus on building teams of scientists, economists and Extension agents to develop a comprehensive management plan for dairy farmers. He served as president of the Extension Senate from 1993 to 1994 during a period of budget cuts and staffing reductions. He currently serves as chairman of the Anderson County District 4 School board of trustees, where he led development of a student-centered budget that earned support of all the stakeholders.

He is married to Kathy Dobbins, principal of Robert Anderson Middle School in Anderson. They have one son, Troy Dobbins, who is a rising senior at Oklahoma State University.

## Forestry Club Takes Second at Annual Forestry Skills Competition

The Clemson University Forestry Club placed second out of 15 university teams and finished in the top three in nine individual events at the 57<sup>th</sup> annual Association of Southern Forestry Clubs Forestry Conclave hosted by Virginia Tech.

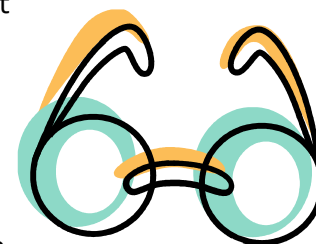
The second-place finish is believed to be the highest ever for Clemson. Stephen F. Austin State University from Nacogdoches, Texas, took first place.

The conclave is a two-day event featuring competitions in a number of physical and mental forestry skill challenges, such as logrolling, chain throwing, crosscut sawing, log chopping, compass and pacing, tree diameter estimating, dendrology and photogrammetry. [More coming in a future Bulletin on the Conclave.]

### TOOTHPICK USES (Part 3 of 3)

These tiny wood products can be a giant help around the house. Here are some unexpected ways to put them to use:

- **Grow a potato plant.** Insert 4 toothpicks around the center of a sweet potato or a regular spud in a bowl of water so that half of the potato is under water. Set it in direct sunlight until sprouts and roots form. Snip off the slips when they are 10-12 inches long, put them in water until they grow roots, then plant.
- **Fix broken eyeglasses.** In lieu of a lost screw, plug the hole with a toothpick to buy time before getting them fixed. Just cut off the excess so that you don't stab yourself.
- **Light a candle.** When a standard match isn't quite long enough to reach the wick in a jar candle, use a toothpick. The wood burns a bit slower, so the risk of burning your fingers is lower.



## Service Award Photos



*State Forester Gene Kodama and Supervisor Gray Vallentine with Nate Poston as he received his 25 Years of Service Certificate at the Employee Appreciation Luncheon in Moncks Corner.*

**REMINDER to Employees:** I just wanted to remind all employees to please send in your photos and information of events going on in your area regarding the SCFC...any type of recognition ceremony, important meetings, employee fun, and especially fires. I only want to make the Bulletin the best I can and it's hard to do that without information from ALL of the offices. Please keep this in mind and send your information and photos in. Thanks! Send them to: [mjohnson@scfc.gov](mailto:mjohnson@scfc.gov).

## ALWAYS READY TO SERVE



*Law Enforcement Chief David West serves Debbie Kiser.*

## Fatz Café Tip A Cop

SCFC law enforcement officers were serving food, and bussing tables at Fatz Café on Broad River Road on May 15-16th as a part of the Tip a Cop fundraiser for Special Olympics. The Chapin Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Department and Forestry Commission raised \$2610 at the restaurant for the event. Participating for the SCFC were: David West, Jonathan Calore, and Trip Miller.



*David West and others served at Fatz Café.*



*Jonathan Calore and other law enforcement take their shift at Fatz Café.*

## World's First Vertical Forest in Milan

The world's first "vertical forests" have bloomed on two towers in Milan. They'll act as lungs for residents of a hot, polluted city, but a key challenge was working out how the buildings would handle all that greenery blowing in the wind.

The Bosco Verticale residential towers are 110m and 76m high respectively and their outsized balconies will be home to 900 trees, 5,000 shrubs and 11,000 floral plants. The project, in the Porta Nuova district of Milan, aims to deliver a new model for sustainable housing and urban regeneration in one of Europe's most polluted cities.

The greenery will act as lungs for residents by boosting oxygen and humidity while absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> and dust. It will also passively cool people down – the designers say the shading could lower the inside temperature by 2°C in the hot summer.

The towers have two-room apartments, duplexes and penthouses all with extra-large balconies – they stick out 3.35 meters to accommodate the greenery – staggered across the facades. The biggest challenge was calculating the loads created by all that greenery blowing in the wind, and they had to use a wind tunnel to test the idea.

Each plant was chosen by botanists to thrive in its particular microclimate. The trees were cultivated in a Milan nursery to limit their growth and prevent damage and excessive weight on the structure. They are fed with treated water taken from a rainwater recycling system. The pumping system is powered by integrated photovoltaic panels. The waterproofing system allows air to oxygenate the soil so the trees can grow properly. Steel cages have been embedded in the soil to stop the trees uprooting in heavy winds. The greenery will need a specialist company to keep it in good health in the years to come.



*The biggest challenge was calculating the loads created by all that greenery blowing in the wind (Boeri Studio)*

With the planting complete, fit-out of the towers is now underway. Hand-over is scheduled for the end of the year. The Bosco Verticale building is part of the Porta Nuova Isola complex, a redevelopment of an area previously dedicated to light industrial activities. The new residential area includes five main buildings for public, residential and commercial use and three underground parking levels.

[For more information, visit: [http://www.globalconreview.com/innovation/worlds-first-vertical-forests-bloom-milan2towers66/?utm\\_source=WIT052314&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=WeekInTrees](http://www.globalconreview.com/innovation/worlds-first-vertical-forests-bloom-milan2towers66/?utm_source=WIT052314&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WeekInTrees)]

## SANTEE UNIT—Gray Vallentine

### Monck's Corner Update

On April 30<sup>th</sup> at our regular monthly meeting, forest technician Mike Black (MC-2-3) brought his skid steer to finish the clean-up efforts around the office as a result of the ice storm. He did a great job and the yard looks good.



On May 7<sup>th</sup> we held our employee appreciation luncheon held at Kelly's BBQ in Summerville. State Forester Gene Kodama attended and shared information on current issues of the Forestry Commission. Gene and I also had a discussion on improving our safety efforts and presented Nate Poston with his service certificate for 25 years.

Gene expressed his appreciation for the work we do down here, but all of us at the Moncks Corner Office would like to express our appreciation to Gene for his efforts in getting the agency back where it needs to be.



And finally, Kevin Dupree (MC-1-7) has resigned as of May 31<sup>st</sup>. We appreciate all that he has done for us and wish him well.

## Employee News

Congratulations to Piedmont Forester Jeff Riggin and his wife on the birth of their son, Grant Ryan Riggin, born on May 21st. Grant weighed 8 lbs 2 oz and was 20 inches long. Baby and mother are doing fine.



## Retiree News

Retired Manchester State Forest Administrative Assistant **Sharon Gullede** passed away on May 21st. Sharon worked for 30 Years at MSF and was an avid Clemson fan.

Former Deputy State Forester **Joel Felder** and former Pee Dee Regional Forester **John Dickinson** are back at work. No, not at the Forestry Commission. Both have signed on with ArborMetrics Solutions for a temporary job auditing wildfire prevention plans for utility contractors in five Western states. Their temporary jobs should last about 4-6 weeks with them flying out to California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona or Nevada each Monday and returning home on Friday. Stay busy guys!

If you have any news on retirees, please send it to me at [mjohnson@scfc.gov](mailto:mjohnson@scfc.gov). We'd love to hear how they are doing.

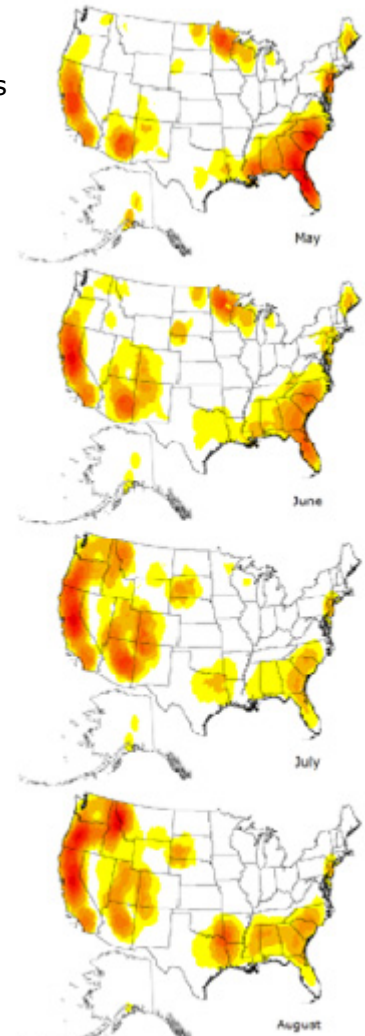
# Fire Weather Outlook



**Southern Area:** Below normal significant wildland fire potential is expected for May and June for much of the Area, except portions of southern Florida, Virginia and west Texas and Oklahoma which could see short periods of elevated potential. Most of the Area is expected to see normal activity levels for July and August.

Recent rainfall across the South has been near to above average. The most notable exceptions are across the western half of Oklahoma, the Texas panhandle, and the southern third of Texas. Short term drought, from a recent drier period across the northern Appalachian Mountains along with a delayed green-up has produced short term deficits here as well. Expect a warmer arc across the southern tier throughout the period with near average temperatures and a mix of wetter and drier conditions. It is not uncommon for a one to two week drier pattern to develop over the South and produce heightened periods of initial attack. Do not expect large areas of sustained above normal significant fire potential. Expect a gradual transition to an increasingly wetter and cooler condition for the South into later summer and especially for the fall.

It is not unusual for areas of West Texas and Oklahoma to see lingering weather-driven fire risks, but green-up will mitigate a significant increase in activity. However, with the current dryness and expected recurring wind events into early May, continue to expect higher fire risks. In addition, a slightly drier-than-usual condition in southern Florida along with increasing lightning activity could spark new fires. Lingering green-up in the higher elevations of northern Virginia will allow some fire activity to continue in early May but recurring rain activity should dampen the overall fire danger.



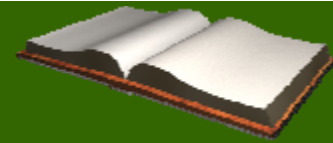
Normal fire season progression across the contiguous U.S. and Alaska shown by monthly fire density (number of fires per unit area). Fire size and fire severity cannot be inferred from this data. (Based on 1999-2010 FPA Data)

# Current Fire Numbers for South Carolina

## MONTH and YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS 5 AND 10 YEAR AVERAGE

Time Period	MAY		JULY-MAY		FISCAL YEAR	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
5 Year Average	101	548.1	2,030	17,011.1	2,145	17,751.4
10 Year Average	159	786.7	2,457	16,801.2	2,605	17,747.7
Current FY <sup>1</sup>	138	676.1	1,694	8,621.7	1,694	8,621.7

<sup>1</sup>To date for current fiscal year



## The History Corner

### NOW AND THEN

For the next few Bulletins I will be comparing old and recent photos of areas around the agency and state. Our state has changed tremendously since most of us were born, and the agency has drastically changed since it was created in 1927. Enjoy the changes!

If you have any photos you would like to share, just send them to me!

### Importance of Forest Products Exports



The forest industry has always been an important part of trade in South Carolina. Today, the total economic impact of South Carolina's forest industry is around \$17 billion annually. South Carolina exports \$1.4 billion in forest products each year and forest products are the #1 export by volume out of the Charleston Port.

*A ship being loaded with wood products in the Charleston Port. (2008)*



*A schooner loaded with lumber leaving Georgetown in 1924.*



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