Good day,

As the South Carolina Forestry Commission Director and State Forester, I am very proud of the Forestry Commission, its employees, and many partners for making our state a better place to live, work, and play by protecting and developing the forest resource.

As Commission employees, we have a unique way that we can join others to make South Carolina a better place and help to take care of those who are less fortunate. We can do this by participating in the annual United Way State Employee Charitable Campaign. United Way programs throughout the state offer everyone opportunities to help others with the confidence that the dollars they contribute are well spent right in their local communities.

To help with this cause, the Commission supports a United Way employee campaign. Our Agency believes in the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of our local United Ways in South Carolina. That is why we provide the time and opportunity for our employees to learn about the services funded by United Way, so that they can make informed giving decisions. We also offer a payroll deduction option to enable employees to give as generously and as conveniently as possible while managing the giving’s impact on family budgets. We do this because our community’s needs are great, and we want our employees to have an easy and trustworthy mechanism to help others.

The dates of our Agency’s United Way campaign are October 1 - 31, 2014. The Human Resources Office will be distributing United Way materials to agency offices and will be happy to assist you as needed with the process. So, please give serious consideration to this giving opportunity and join me in being a part of a program that helps so many people in our local communities. Thank you for helping the Forestry Commission “Live United!”

Best regards,

Gene

NOTE: The next Bulletin will be October 1.
Region County Board Meetings

All three regions have hosted their County Board Meetings to update members on Forestry Commission activities and concerns. The Pee Dee County Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 19th at the Florence office. The Pee Dee Region covers Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, and Williamsburg Counties. The Coastal Region (covering Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, and Orangeburg Counties) held their meeting on Thursday, August 21st in Walterboro. (For more on this meeting see Charlotte Grant’s article on page 4.) The Piedmont Region (covering Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union, and York Counties) held its Board Meeting on Tuesday, August 26th in Newberry. Some photos from these three meetings are below and on the following page.

Coastal Region County Board Meeting

Doug Mills and Scott Ulmer show Helen Dills-Pittman (Jasper County) the new firetrack while Andy Johnson and Commissioner Ed Muckenfuss talk about firefighting.

Deputy State Forester Tom Patton and Jim Adkins (Dorchester County) discuss equipment.

Ben Spearman (Orangeburg County) sees how the dispatch center operates.

The group enjoys a delicious meal.

Quote of the Week

Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.

Lao Tzu
Pee Dee Region County Board Meeting

State Forester Gene Kodama gives the Board an update.

Deputy State Forester Tom Patton and Ron Holt talk with Board members Bruce Baker and Jimmy Huggins from Marion County.

Piedmont Region County Board Meeting

Kenny Robertson presents the region’s accomplishments for the year.

The Board and employees listen to the updates.

Board and employees discuss Commission activities.

Tom Patton talks with Hub Smith and Charles Ramsey, Commission retirees who are now Board members.
COASTAL REGION—Charlotte Grant

Forestry Board Meeting

The Coastal Regional Office hosted the Regional Forestry Board Meeting and Dinner on Thursday, August 21, 2014 for all counties in the Coastal Region. Regional Forester Calvin Bailey welcomed the attendees, introduced speakers, and presented Region Highlights to Board members. State Forester Gene Kodama gave the State Forester’s Report, Deputy State Forester Tom Patton gave an update on the Ice Storm, Coastal Dispatch Manager Kelly Banks and Communications Manager Mike Thomas gave attendees a tour of the dispatch center, and Equipment Coordinator Doug Mills demonstrated some of the new (much needed and appreciated) equipment. After the updates and presentations the group enjoyed a southern buffet of baked chicken, ribs, rice, green beans, and macaroni and cheese catered by Small’s Catering of Walterboro.

State Forester Gene Kodama with Ben Spearman (Orangeburg County).

Deputy State Forester Tom Patton with R. Stanley Collum of Aiken County.

Helen Dills-Pittman (Jasper County) and Gerry Stuckey (Berkeley County) with Commissioner Micky Scott.

Doug Mills beside one of the new fire tracks.

John Miller of Beaufort County enjoys the meeting.
New Employees

We have two new employees who have joined the agency since the last bulletin.

**TJ Lyell** started on August 18th as the project forester for Kershaw, Lee, and Darlington Counties. He will work out of the Chesterfield Office.

TJ lives in Hartsville and received his Bachelor’s Degree in Forestry from Clemson University. He previously was a consultant in forestry and did timber buying. TJ enjoys hunting, fishing, golf, and watching Clemson football.

On an interesting note, TJ acted as an extra in some movies and television shows filmed in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. *Walker Payne* and the upcoming *Loomis Fargo* are two of the movies he acted in. Some of the television shows he has appeared on are: *Homeland, Banshee, Reckless, Revolution, Sleepy Hollow, Royal Pains, It's Supernatural, Identity*, and *I Survived Evil*.

**David Holmes** started on September 2nd as the new Assistant Nursery Manager at Taylor Nursery in Trenton. David lives in Trenton, SC and has previous nursery experience. He received his Bachelor’s Degree in Horticulture from the University of Georgia. David’s hobbies include golf, hunting and fishing.

Please welcome both as they start their career with the SC Forestry Commission.

Outlook for Piedmont Forests

In a recent US Forest Service Report it has been revealed that the Piedmont forests will likely decline over time in response to growing populations and urbanization. Over the next several decades the Piedmont will be faced with the effects of forest loss, including changes in water quality and water supply from forests, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and increasing competition for traditional forest products industries.

The Piedmont, a complex physiographic subregion of the U.S. South, encompasses parts of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. The full report can be found at: [http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/46307](http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/46307).
CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

JOB TITLE: Mechanic III
CLOSING DATE: 09/19/14
AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MIN: $26,139.00
AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MAX: $37,250.00
LOCATION: Newberry County

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES: Performs skilled routine and general maintenance to automotive and fire suppression equipment, such as trucks, tractors (diesel and gas powered), and miscellaneous equipment. Pulls engines and transmissions, rebuilds engines, replaces wheel seals, rotates tires, changes undercarriage parts on bulldozers, replaces bed boards on low boy trailers and other miscellaneous duties. Conducts diagnostic testing and identifies problems to determine vehicle and equipment malfunctions; repairs vehicles and heavy equipment in the repair shop and during service calls. Performs welding activities.

MINIMUM AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: A high school diploma and two (2) years of work experience directly related to the area of employment to include automotive and equipment repair, diesel engines, heavy equipment and light duty vehicles. Welding experience is required. Position requires a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL). Candidate must pass the written CDL test before employment. CDL driving portion passed within 90 working days of employment. Mandatory drug test required.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS: Applicant has a Commercial Driver's License, Class A.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Must be able to lift a minimum of 50 pounds and respond to service calls after hours and on weekends. Overnight travel may be required for large fire incidents in the state that require a mechanic on duty. Out of state travel may be required for Southeastern fire incidents.

JOB TITLE: READVERTISEMENT - Forestry Technician I—Dillon
CLOSING DATE: 09/17/14
AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MIN: $21,484.00
AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MAX: $22,558.00
LOCATION: Dillon County

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: This position works in Dillon County/Surrounding Area.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES: THIS IS A RE-ADVERTISEMENT. PREVIOUS APPLICANT NEED NOT RE-APPLY. YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSTING. Responds to forest fire calls as required by the readiness plan. Performs forest fire duties with bulldozer tractor, hand tools and water handling equipment. Investigates fires to determine cause and gathers pertinent information to complete fire reports. Performs operator preventive maintenance on all assigned equipment and maintains equipment in a state of readiness; provides forestry services, such as firebreak plowing to landowners; assists with reforestation programs and other forestry operations.

MINIMUM AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: A high school diploma and experience in forest fire protection duties, forestry management, operation of heavy mechanized equipment, or relevant work experience. Position requires a commercial driver's license (CDL). Candidate must pass the written CDL exam prior to employment. Must pass the agency’s 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.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS: Associate Degree in forestry, natural resources or other related discipline.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: This position covers a multi-county work zone (Dillon County/Surrounding Area). Applicants who previously applied for this position do not need to reapply and will be considered for this posting.
BlueChoice HMO No Longer Offered
The BlueChoice HealthPlan HMO will not be offered in 2015. Subscribers who are enrolled in BlueChoice should choose another plan or drop health coverage during open enrollment (in October 2014). BlueChoice did not renew its contract with PEBA due to declining enrollment and increasing costs. BlueChoice subscribers who do not choose another health plan during open enrollment will be automatically enrolled in the State Health Plan Standard Plan.

Bowers Retires
Congratulations to Paul Bowers who retired from the agency on September 2, 2014. He worked 28 years with the agency and his most recent position was a Mechanic III in the Forest Protection Division.

Log a Load for Kids
The SC Forestry Association is sponsoring Log A Load For kids—a campaign to raise funds for children’s hospitals who help treat ill and injured children. All funds raised locally are designated and remain with the children’s hospital in your area.

The Log A Load program originated in South Carolina in 1988 as a program designed to demonstrate logger’s commitment to community service and professionalism. The concept was for loggers and wood supplying businesses to donate the value of a load of logs to a Children’s Miracle Network affiliated hospital. The program is now national in scope.

Please commit to support this project by completing a Log A Load For Kids pledge card today and return it to the SCFA by October 15th. For more information and pledge cards, go to http://www.scforestry.org/log-a-load-for-kids.

HUMAN RESOURCES—Lynn Rivers

7 Security Habits of Highly effective PC Users

Part 4 of 7 (HP Technology at Work March, 2014)

You might not think about it when you’re browsing the web, shopping online and interacting on social media, but you are the first line of defense against cyber security risks. The power to be safe is in your hands and at your fingertips. Developing and maintaining good habits can make online activity much safer and more enjoyable for you and your colleagues. The following good habits take only minutes to learn and are easy enough to incorporate into your daily work life.

Protect data on mobile devices and removable media
Mobile devices and removable media, such as USB drives, enable us to easily share and transport information, but can lead to the loss or misuse of data. Although it’s important to protect the actual devices themselves from loss, it’s equally important to protect the information they contain by:

• Turning on and accepting software updates
• Creating regular backups of important data
• Erasing all data before you discard, donate or give away a device
• Encrypting all data, if possible
• Using anti-virus software and keeping it up-to-date
**Upcoming Event: Take A Kid Mountain Biking Day at Harbison**

On Saturday, October 11, 2014 Harbison State Forest will host a free mountain biking event from 9:00am until 2:00pm sponsored by Midlands SORBA and Friends of Harbison State Forest. Take A Kid Mountain Biking Day (TKMBD) was developed and coordinated by the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA).

TKMBD is an annual celebration held officially in October. The event strives to encourage communities around the world to join together and ride mountain bikes with youth. Over the years tens of thousands of kids participate from across the globe, including: the United States, Italy, Australia, South Africa, Canada, Malaysia, and Mexico. Informal or formal, one child or 100 children, TKMBD celebrates the joy of riding in the dirt. Besides being good, healthy fun, the goal is to develop a connection between kids and the natural world around them. Today's children are tomorrow's land managers and politicians — future decision-makers for important matters like recreation and access to public lands. How different might our current access landscape look today if previous generations of policy makers had grown up riding bikes on natural-surface trails?

Take A Kid Mountain Biking Day will include a bicycle safety check-up, off-road riding skills clinic and challenge course, ride in the woods and lunch free of charge to participants. The activities will be take place from 9am-2pm and will be held at the Harbison State Forest Gazebo. Riders will be grouped by skill level and will be accompanied by experienced mountain bike ride leaders.

All event participants should bring water and wear appropriate clothing and shoes. **Helmets are required and bring your bikes.** All youth participants must be accompanied by an adult. Parents are encourage to ride with their children if possible.

**Schedule of Events**
9:00am-10:00am -Registration
9:00am-10:30am -Bike Safety Inspection
  Safety Talk & Harbison State Forest Education Talk
10:30am-11:00am - Challenge Course
11:00am-2:00pm - Group Rides & Group Games
**Lunch will be served at the Gazebo at 12:30**

**Midlands SORBA** is a chapter of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association/International Mountain Bike Association founded in 2010 with a mission to promote land access, trail preservation, and new trail development in order to enhance mountain bike touring, racing, fun, and fellowship for all mountain bicyclists in the Midlands of SC. **Friends of Harbison State Forest** is a non-profit organization founded in 2004 to ensure the preservation of Harbison State Forest as an educational and recreational urban forest.

The event is open to the public, but space is limited so sign up today! To register or for more information, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/take-a-kid-mountain-biking-day-2014-harbison-state-forest-registration-12715760181.

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**Fall Fun**

What is a tree’s least favorite month?

Sep– timber
TRAINING—Leslie Woodham

CPFM Courses

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is offering training for individuals seeking to be a Certified Prescribed Fire Managers. Certification and proper burn execution can reduce the liability for those conducting outdoor burning. Training sessions are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, October 8, 2014 in Columbia
- Wednesday, October 22, 2014 in Florence
- Thursday, November 13, 2014 in Walterboro
- Wednesday, January 7, 2015 in Columbia

The one-day course teaches managers how to plan prescribed burns that comply with South Carolina Smoke Management Guidelines. These regulations are mandatory for all forestry, wildlife and agricultural burning in South Carolina. The course is not intended to teach individuals how to burn, but rather how to manage smoke from prescribed fires under these regulations and create awareness of legal issues associated with outdoor burning.

Certification requires that an individual complete this training, pass a written exam, and document one’s burning experience. Each session will begin at 8:30 am, and close by 5:00 pm with an administered test.

To register for the course, please complete the enclosed registration form, and mail it with your $50 registration fee. Applications are accepted on a first come-first served basis. The deadline for registration is three weeks prior to the course. Reference materials and specific details regarding locations will be mailed two weeks prior to each session. If you have further questions, please call Leslie Woodham at 803-896-8809.

Beavans Takes National Position

Gwen Beavans has accepted the National Fire Prevention Program Manager position with the Forest Service at their Washington DC Office. She will start the national position on September 22nd.

Gwen is currently the Region 8 Fire Prevention Coordinator and the Interpretive and Education Specialist for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. She started with the Forest Service as a forester back in 1990. Gwen has worked with several Forestry Commission employees on projects in the past 24 years to further environmental education in South Carolina. She has been involved with Wood Magic, the Teacher’s Tour, Firewise, PLT, and Smokey programs.

On Tuesday, September 9th, the Forest Service held a farewell cookout to honor Gwen before she leaves for Washington. The Forestry Commission hosted the gathering at the gazebo on Harbison State Forest. Several of her coworkers and cooperators, friends and family attended the event. We wish Gwen all the best in her new position!
ACCOUNTING—Cathy Nordeen
CGO Travel A and B No Longer Required

TRAVEL FORMS A and B ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED EFFECTIVELY IMMEDIATELY. Travel form C will still be required if you exceed the GSA rate on lodging.

For several years SCEIS agencies have been required to submit CG Travel Forms A and/or B along with travel reimbursement requests. These forms are identified at the bottom of each page as CGO Travel 12/09 A or CGO Travel 12/09 B. With nearly all central State agencies now operating on SCEIS, these forms will no longer be required. This policy change is effective immediately. All other requirements for travel submission remain unchanged.

SERVICE AWARDS for September

Kathy Amick    Piedmont Dispatch  15 Years State and Agency Service
Ken McInnis    Manchester State Forest  40 Years State and Agency Service

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.

HISTORICAL FIRE DATA
FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

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¹Highest number of fires on record for month of August
²Lowest number of fires on record for month of August (tied with 1949) as of September 2, 2014

Lowest acreage burned in month of August was in 1971 with 12.0 acres (from 16 fires).
Highest acreage burned in the month of August was in 1954 with 7,425.6 acres (from 443 fires).
The SC Tree Farm Program was established in 1946 as a recognition program to promote active forest management on private lands. The program was historically funded by forest industry, staffed with volunteers from the wood supply chain and provided free membership to landowners. The program has changed over the years as forest industry volunteers and funding drastically dwindled. A significant change was the recognition of Tree Farm as a third party certification system in 2002. Third party certification is a benefit for forest landowners as it may provide greater access to markets and preference in times of quota restrictions. With the possibility of more bids for Tree Farm certified wood landowners could potentially receive higher prices for their products.

In 2014, recognizing changes, SC Tree Farm unveiled a revised program referred to as the South Carolina Certified Tree Farm Program. A big change is the move to a paid membership system to ensure the funding required to maintain program benefits for Tree Farmers in SC. The revised program has several key goals including: strengthening the capacity of the state program, engaging membership in Tree Farm activities, improving networking/educational opportunities for forest landowners and expanding third party certification among landowners.

The Certified Tree Farm Program seeks to establish a group of Tree Farmers who know and care that they are part of the Tree Farm community, value their membership in the program, proudly display the Tree Farm Sign, and are actively engaged in sustainable management of their property. More information on joining SC’s Certified Tree Farm Program can be found at [http://www.scforestry.org/tree-farm](http://www.scforestry.org/tree-farm).

The changes to the system seem to be working. Here are some new Certified Tree Farm members in the Pee Dee Region:

William N. Chapman - Darlington County
Marshall W. Flowers, Jr. - Darlington County
Marshall W. Flowers, Sr. - Darlington County (not pictured)
Janet and Gerald Duvall - Chesterfield County

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The changes to the system seem to be working. Here are some new Certified Tree Farm members in the Pee Dee Region:

William N. Chapman - Darlington County
Marshall W. Flowers, Jr. - Darlington County
Marshall W. Flowers, Sr. - Darlington County (not pictured)
Janet and Gerald Duvall - Chesterfield County

The SC Tree Farm Program was established in 1946 as a recognition program to promote active forest management on private lands. The program was historically funded by forest industry, staffed with volunteers from the wood supply chain and provided free membership to landowners. The program has changed over the years as forest industry volunteers and funding drastically dwindled. A significant change was the recognition of Tree Farm as a third party certification system in 2002. Third party certification is a benefit for forest landowners as it may provide greater access to markets and preference in times of quota restrictions. With the possibility of more bids for Tree Farm certified wood landowners could potentially receive higher prices for their products.

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**Upcoming Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 16-19, 2014</td>
<td>Wood Magic at the Piedmont Forestry Center in Tamassee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 6-10, 2014</td>
<td>Wood Magic at the Harbison State Forest in Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 8, 2014</td>
<td>CPFM Certified Prescribed Fire Manager in Columbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22, 2014</td>
<td>CPFM Certified Prescribed Fire Manager in Florence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 13, 2014</td>
<td>CPFM Certified Prescribed Fire Manager in Walterboro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18-21, 2014</td>
<td>Wood Magic at Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center in Georgetown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 7, 2015</td>
<td>CPFM Certified Prescribed Fire Manager in Columbia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fall Fun**

What did the tree say to autumn?

Leaf me alone.

**Retiree News**

I recently saw retiree **Rhett Bickley** at Gwen Beavan’s farewell cookout. He is doing well and always has some good stories. He even made his own wooden utensil to use for lunch.

If you have any news on retirees, please send it to me at mjohnson@scfc.gov. We’d love to hear how they are doing.

**Photo of the Week**

**“Hiding Out”**

This photo was sent in from chief pilot Sam Anderson. He found a turtle in a downspout at his home in Chester. Maybe he was waiting for a fun ride in the rain.

Please send in your funny, scenic or interesting photos to mjohnson@scfc.gov.
Clemson’s New Wood Institute

Clemson University has formed a new institute whose founders hope to change how commercial buildings are constructed in the U.S.

Clemson’s Wood Utilization + Design Institute (WU+D) will leverage the university’s assets in forestry, architecture, construction science and engineering to design, test and market innovative, sustainable wood-based materials for use in a commercial construction market dominated by steel and concrete. In the process, WU+D hopes to forge new markets for South Carolina’s $17 billion forest products industry, form partnerships with corporations needing product design consultation and testing, and prepare Clemson students to take leadership roles in designing and marketing future innovations in wood-based construction technology.

“South Carolina has the timber, design and manufacturing muscle to produce sustainable wood-based solutions that challenge conventional approaches to commercial building. And Clemson has the resources to help make it happen,” said WU+D Director Patricia Layton. One such engineered wood product is the Cross Laminated Timber (CLT). “CLT panels are as strong and stable as concrete, made from a sustainable and renewable resource, and extremely cost-effective, and we want to see them being manufactured here in South Carolina,” Layton said. CLT already is being used in Europe and Canada, but U.S. building codes and lack of marketplace familiarity means that CLT is not widely used here.

“CLT has the potential to transform the commercial construction market while expanding South Carolina’s already strong timber industry and manufacturing infrastructure. We believe that Clemson’s WU+D Institute is perfectly positioned to advance the use of wood in new and inventive ways,” said Micky Scott, president of Collum’s Lumber Products LLC, located in Allendale.

A Clemson University Creative Inquiry team of civil engineering and construction science students led by civil engineering professor Scott Schiff already has performed extensive testing of CLT.

WU+D also will develop forest-management methodologies that result in improved wood fiber production, and will design other wood-based construction solutions using materials that include engineered wood, such as oriented strand board, or OSB. WU+D will provide technical expertise as Clemson’s Solar Decathlon team engages in a nearly two-year process of designing, testing and building an affordable energy-efficient home to compete against 18 other universities in Solar Decathlon 2015. The house then will be reconstructed at the competition site in Irvine, California.

Layton, a forestry professor and forest industry veteran, comes to WU+D after four years as director of Clemson’s School of Agricultural, Forest, and Environmental Sciences. The Society of American Foresters recently named her as a Fellow for her contributions to the profession.

WU+D team members include:
- Dustin Albright, assistant professor of architecture;
- Jimmy Martin, chair, Glenn Department of Civil Engineering;
- Dan Harding, associate professor of architecture;
- Katherine Schwennsen, director, School of Architecture;
- Vincent Blouin, associate professor, architecture and materials science and engineering;
- Roger Liska, chair, construction science and management;
- Scott Schiff, professor of civil engineering; and
- Weichiang Pang, assistant professor of civil engineering.

WU+D will be housed in the Harris A. Smith building on Clemson’s main campus.
Which Type of Wood Is the Strongest?
By Jeanne Young (http://www.ehow.com/info_8653141_type-wood-strongest.html)

There are more than 100 wood species available for commercial use in the United States and another 30 types are commonly imported, according to the Wood Handbook published by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Products Laboratory. Wood is versatile and used to construct framing for houses, sheds, garages and other buildings; as a flooring or sub floor material; to build furniture, cabinets or decorative objects; and even for musical instruments. When choosing a wood, consider its strength.

Classification and Uses
Trees are classified as hardwoods or softwoods. Softwood lumber is typically used for cabinets, flooring, framing, paneling and millwork. Hardwoods are also often used for flooring and paneling, along with architectural and interior woodwork, according to the Wood Handbook.

Strength Basics
All wood has a high ratio of strength to weight, but some wood species are stronger than others. Strength in wood is expressed by both its bending strength and its compressive strength, according to the Wood Handbook. Do not confuse the stiffness of wood with its bending strength, although those are both mechanical properties of wood, according to the University of California at Riverside. When engineers measure the strength of wood, they measure bending strength and compressive strength in pounds per square inch (psi). They test bending strength by loading blocks on top of wood perpendicular to the grain until the wood breaks and they measure compressive strength by loading blocks of wood parallel to the grain until it breaks.

American Softwoods
Yellow pine is the strongest of the North American softwoods commonly used in the US (for example, Loblolly, Longleaf, and Slash Pine). It has a compressive strength of 8,470 psi and a bending strength of 14,500 psi. Next strongest is Douglas fir with a compressive strength of 7,230 psi and a bending strength of 12,400 psi, followed by Hemlock at 7,200 psi and 11,300 psi, respectively.

American Hardwoods
Hickory is the strongest hardwood with a compressive strength of 9,210 psi and a bending strength of 20,200 psi. Yellow birch is the next strongest with a compressive strength of 8,170 psi and a bending strength of 16,600 psi, followed by hard maple at 7,830 psi and 15,800 psi, respectively.

Imported Woods
One imported wood species is stronger than the North American species. Bubinga has a compressive strength of 10,500 psi and a bending strength of 22,600. Bubinga lumber is a dense hardwood from Africa that's also known as African rosewood. Purpleheart is nearly as strong with a compressive strength of 10,320 psi and a bending strength of 19,200 psi, followed by Brazilian rosewood at 9,600 psi and 19,000 psi, respectively.

Did You Know?
The average strike of Lightning is six miles long.
Every day 44,000 lightning storms occur around the world.
A lightning flash is usually no more than an inch wide.
Plant These Fruit Trees to Put Bucks in Bow Range

To make your property stand out to bucks, entice them with something sweet: trees laden with plump, energy-rich fruit. Small clusters of soft-mast trees are far less common than traditional food plots on managed properties, and they make ideal ambush points for bowhunters. You can’t go wrong with the three sweets below.

**Apples**

Rich in sugars, starch, and fats, apples increase deer’s digestion speed. That allows them to eat more often and obtain more nutrition to prepare for winter. Without such a high-energy food source, deer burn protein and body fat instead. They also happen to love the sweet taste of apples and readily seek them out.

One apple tree can produce 250 pounds of fruit. Plant a mix of early- and late-ripening trees. The former include Centennial, Liberty, Enterprise, Rome, Horse, and Magnum Bonum. Honeycrisp, Arkansas Black, Goldrush, Blacktwig, and York ripen later, in October and November.

**Pears**

On my hunting property, big bucks seem to have a special fondness for ripe pears. Trees that avoid fire blight disease can grow 50 feet tall and produce for up to 75 years, with fruits emerging as early as the third year.

Pears can thrive in fairly wet areas. Good varieties include Anjou, Bartlett, GioVan, Doc's Special, Flemish Beauty, Kieffer, Potomac, Magness, Shenandoah, Burford, and Stacey. Most of these drop their fruits in early fall. Big Mama, Trophy, and Gallaway hold theirs much later, making them good bets for firearms seasons.

Make sure to plant several varieties of pear trees to ensure pollination.

**Persimmons**

These do well near forest edges and fallow fields. Female persimmon trees begin bearing fruit at between 5 and 8 years old and can produce for half a century, yielding a strong crop every other year. The 20- to 40-foot trees are hardy, surviving temperatures to 20 below and thriving in low-quality soils.

Persimmons contain 25 to 45 percent sugar and are rich in phosphorus, potassium, vitamins, and carbohydrates. Deer and deer managers like Blue, Craggs, Dollywood, Evelyn, Janet, Killen, Miller, and Yates varieties. Any will ripen as early as August but may hold on to fruits into December, making them a season-long draw.

*From the August, 2012 issue of Field & Stream magazine.*

**Some Rules of the South**

- Don’t think that since we talk slow, we think slow. You may be in for a surprise.

- We have more folks in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. So don’t mess with us. If you do, you will get whipped by the best.

- College and high school football is as important here as the Lakers and the Knicks, and a dang site more fun to watch.

- We open doors for women.

- So you have a $70,000 car. We’re impressed. We have $250,000 cotton pickers that are driven only 3 weeks a year.
Do You Know When to Stop for a School Bus?

With school back in session, the roads are busy with school buses again. Motorists need to observe traffic safety rules around school buses. First and foremost, they must know and understand the school bus laws in South Carolina. In particular, you must be aware that it is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that has stopped to load or unload students.

Motorists must learn the “flashing signal light system” that school bus drivers use to alert motorists that they are going to stop to load or unload students:

- **Yellow flashing lights** indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
- **Red flashing lights** and extended stop arm indicate that the bus has stopped and that children are getting on or off.

Motorists on any highway that has only two-travel lanes, one in each direction, must stop for the bus whether approaching from the front or overtaking from the rear and remain stopped until the lights are no longer activated or the bus resumes motion.

Motorists traveling on multi-lane roadways, which have at least two lanes of travel in each direction, must stop for the bus if overtaking the bus from the rear and remain stopped until the lights are no longer activated or the bus resumes motion, however motorists approaching a bus from the front, on this type multi-lane roadway need not stop but proceed with caution.

The minimum fine for passing a stopped school bus:
- 1st Offense—$500 (and 6 points)
- 2nd Offense—$2,000 (and 6 points)

When you see flashing lights on a school bus, **SLOW DOWN, PREPARE TO STOP, and ALWAYS LOOK FOR CHILDREN!**

(From SC Department of Public Safety - www.scdps.gov/tz)

Just for Fun

After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. **Moral of this story:** When you’re full of bull, keep your mouth shut.
**Fire Weather Outlook**

**Southern Area:** Normal significant wildland fire potential will occur over most of the Southern Area during September, October and November through December. During the outlook period some areas will experience shorter term below normal potential but these areas will be inconsistent from month to month.

Recurring higher frequency summertime diurnal rain activity along with periods of moderate rainfall from thunderstorms has been the pattern for the last month. Although events have produced wide spread rain, amounts have tapered off from previous months. Accordingly, short-term drought has emerged and is most pronounced across Alabama.

For September and October, expect rain events to generally produce below average accumulations over especially the central and southeastern states. Higher rain totals are expected in areas seeing the greater energy from the incoming storms, our northeast states from Kentucky to Virginia. While anemic, the tropical pattern should continue to produce a wetter pattern for the Florida peninsula.

Due to the return of a much warmer temperature condition, which is expected to persist into Fall, and the below average rain fall pattern fuel moistures have trended downward and are beginning to more consistently range into moderate dryness levels. While fine fuel moistures are generally staying above the critical threshold there will likely be periods of post cold frontal lower humidity that will allow drying and higher ignition potential over the next few months. Expect some shorter duration fire danger periods for the central third of the Southern Area for September and October. However, a higher frequency storm pattern should be sufficient to preclude the development of a long duration, high fire activity period.

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**Current Fire Numbers for South Carolina**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH and YEAR TO DATE</th>
<th>COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS 5 AND 10 YEAR AVERAGE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time Period</strong></td>
<td><strong>SEPT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fires</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Year Average</td>
<td>123</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Year Average</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current FY¹</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹To date for current fiscal year
The History Corner

NOW AND THEN

In this series, 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 changed since it was created in 1927. Enjoy the changes!

FIRE DEMONSTRATIONS

The South Carolina Forestry Commission has been the authority on how to conduct proper and safe “backyard burns” since its creation in 1927. Demonstrations of the proper techniques and conditions for burning leaves, limbs, and branches from your yard have been performed for decades for residents and media. Not much has changed in that the same tools (rake, swatter, and nearby water hose) are still used today.

State law requires that you notify the Forestry Commission prior to burning outdoors. The law requires that you clear a firebreak around the burning site and have the right equipment available to keep the fire under control. You must also stay with the fire until it is completely safe.

Berkeley Supervisor Gray Valentine conducts a fire demonstration at the Moncks Corner Office in 2010 as Walt Woodrum, Mike Bozzo, media and local residents watch.

Fire demo in Bamberg in 1958.