

Tree Country

September 2015



the employee
newsletter of the
South Carolina
Forestry Commission

from the desk of
STATE FORESTER
Gene Kodama

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Forestry's Economic Impact
Page 4



Out-of-State Deployments
Page 6



TELE Workshop
Page 7

Good day!

I hope you have all had a good summer season. Though we have about three weeks until fall, the first major signs of summer's end have arrived with schools starting again and some slightly cooler weather in place. And, with much of the state being unusually dry, our wildfire numbers are now back to normal for this time of year, which typically has relatively low occurrences but sometimes very volatile fires, particularly in drier areas with high fuel loading.

Of course we know the West is enduring intense wildfires and is far from the end of its most active wildfire season. Our agency has sent personnel to assist in the West and also in Texas, and personnel are coming to assist from as far away as New Zealand and Australia. There are currently about 30,000 people fighting Western fires. The situation has worsened so much recently that there are shortages of basic equipment such as 1.5-inch fire hose. Hose is being sent to the West from

all over the country including the East coast and possibly from our own South Carolina inventory.

This week, the US Forest Service announced that it is beginning to transfer funds to wildfire suppression from other non-fire programs. This will likely further reduce federal funding received by the Commission that it passes through to South Carolina communities and landowners for forestry-related activities. Bills have been introduced in Congress to

cease this so called “fire borrowing or transferring” so that federal funding for wildfire suppression would be funded similarly to other federal disasters like hurricanes and floods. However, none of these bills have been passed yet. The entire nation’s forestry community continues to push for a bill that would address this problem.

Here in South Carolina, the Forestry Commission hosted a 20 X 15 Forestry Summit two weeks ago with the SC Forestry Association to announce new forestry information. A daylong program included updates on the state of SC forestry, the latest forestry economic impact figure, forest resource trends, forest product development and marketing initiatives, and a special presentation on the US economy as it relates to forestry by Mark Vitner a leading economist with Wells Fargo. At the approximate half-way point in the 20 X 15 Project designed to help the state’s forest industry increase its economic impact from \$17.4 billion to \$20 billion by year 2015, the impact is \$18.6 billion. Economic data on the impact from year 2015 will be available around December 2016 and will be



State Forester Gene Kodama and SC Forestry Association President Cam Crawford unveil the new forestry impact numbers.

used to determine if the \$20 billion goal was reached. More details on the summit appear later in this bulletin. Another key point from the meeting was the need for more active forest management, tree planting, and timber production in our state to meet future wood supply needs and to support the many jobs provided by our industry.

I hope you all have a safe and productive remainder of the summer.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gene'.



On the Cover

This issue's cover features a beautiful live oak at the First Baptist Church in Conway. The oak is known as the Evelyn Snider Oak.

NOTE to Employees : Card Purchases Must Be Shipped to an SCFC Address

SCEIS is requiring an automated payment entry for use tax on purchases. This tax will be calculated based on the shipping (delivery) address. Some employees are having items shipped to their homes. **Beginning immediately all SCFC procurement card purchases must be shipped to a Forestry Commission address.**

Administration

- Larry Moody

Employee News

Forestry Technician **Angele Sackel** from the Santee Unit resigned from his position July 31 to pursue other opportunities. Angele had been with the agency since Dec. 2014.

Charles R. Stachewicz, a mechanic with Forest Protection/Fleet Management, resigned his position Aug. 19. Charles started with the agency in March.

Firefighters Return From California



From left to right, Abbeville/Greenwood/Laurens Project Forester Michael McGill, Firewise Coastal Field Coordinator Drake Carroll, Bamberg/Colleton Project Forester Michael Broom, Piedmont East Unit Forestry Technician Eli Collier, Pee Dee BMP Forester Eric West, and Edgefield/McCormick/Saluda Project Forester Ben Kendall returned home Aug. 19 from fighting wildfire in California. This group was part of a hand crew on the Fork Complex Fire in California (see more information on page 6).

Drought Contributes to Wildfire in Williamsburg

The state's rainfall has been hit-or-miss this summer with some areas getting flooded while others don't receive a drop of rain. Drought conditions in Williamsburg County aided this 30-acre wildfire July 29 on McJunkin Road. The fire started in a large cutover area and smoldered for days, needing to be monitored daily.

Responding to the fire's initial attack were: Black River Unit Forestry Technicians Glenn Porter, Wayne Springs, and Wayne Smith; Williamsburg Supervisor Terry Cook, Georgetown Supervisor James Hall, and Black River Unit Forester Ron Holt. Holt said, "It was one of the hottest and fastest fires I've seen in a while."

Photos on the right by Georgetown Supervisor James Hall

CAUGHT IN THE ACT



Orangeburg/Calhoun Supervisor Billy Rutland sent in this photo of a firewhirl over a cornfield fire in Calhoun County.



Fire was racing through the cutover and torching out the tops of pines in Williamsburg County.



Black River Unit Forester Ron Holt grabs some cold water as he heads back to fire on McJunkin Road.

Forestry Generates \$18.6 Billion Impact on SC Economy

South Carolina Forestry Commission officials announced the economic impact of the forest products sector in grand fashion Tuesday, Aug. 18, unveiling a large wooden sign representing the industry's \$18.6 billion contribution to the state's economy.

The new economic impact figure was revealed at the 20x15 Forestry Summit, a statewide meeting of forestry professionals organized by the SCFC, the South Carolina Forestry Association and forest industry partners. The purpose of the meeting was to report on the progress of the "20-by-15 Initiative," a forestry initiative established in 2009 to grow the industry's economic impact to \$20 billion by the year 2015. This update reflected data from as recent as 2013 and 2014, demonstrating the industry's course toward attainment of that goal.

Information

- Doug Wood

While the updated economic impact figure was the main attraction of the summit, other highlights of the economic analysis commissioned by the project show that South Carolina forestry represents the state's:

- Number one manufacturing sector, in terms of jobs (90,320) and labor income (\$4.5 billion)
- Number one export commodity from the Port of Charleston, at \$1.5 billion
- Number one agribusiness crop, totaling \$759 million

A daylong program of speakers addressed other forestry-related economic issues, including a damage report update from the February 2014 ice storm, the establishment of a forest products marketing program, and the overall US economic outlook presented by Wells Fargo Senior Economist Mark Vitner.

Thorough TV coverage of the summit in the Columbia area, combined with statewide reporting about the economic impact announcement, helped amplify the importance of forestry to the quality of life in South Carolina.

A special thanks is owed to Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator Lowe Sharpe, without whose creativity, expertise and initiative the wooden display unveiled at the economic impact announcement would not have been possible.



Forestry has an \$18.6 billion impact to the state of South Carolina.



State Forester Gene Kodama welcomed all attendees and introduced all speakers at the event.



Approximately 60 participants attended the summit.



Resource Development Director Tim Adams and Forest Resource Analyst Scott Danskin unveil the number.



State Forester Gene Kodama leads a panel discussion at the end of the summit including, from left to right, South Carolina Forestry Association President and CEO Cam Crawford, Clemson Wood Utilization + Design Institute Director Pat Layton, Lupold Consulting Owner Mac Lupold, SCFC Forest Resource Analyst Scott Danskin, and SCFC Marketing Specialist Edgar Arias.

Alta Boy

Media coverage of the 20x15 Forestry Summit (see page 4) was enhanced greatly by the 7-foot-high wooden numbers “18.6” on display at the conference, representing forestry’s billions-of-dollars impact to the South Carolina economy.

The visual aid was conceived and created by several Commission employees who bought the materials, projected the characters onto plywood and jiggled out the shapes for the “big numbers” in the sign shop.

As the summit approached, however, a lot of finishing work still had to be done, and there still wasn’t a good plan for the base of the display. Time was running out, and finishing the numbers before the meeting seemed impossible.

That’s when Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator **Lowé Sharpe** took charge. Picking up the project on his own, Lowé conceived a simple, stable – and portable! – base, then sanded and stained the whole assembly. He single-handedly willed the project to completion, and he played one of the biggest behind-the-scenes parts in the success of the whole event.

The “big numbers” are now on display in the headquarters lobby.



Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator Lowé Sharpe and Forest Resource Analyst Scott Danskin cut out numbers with a jig saw.

Did You Know?

Most gift cards are made with PVC, not paper.

Each year over 35 billion gift cards are manufactured globally. Most of these cards are made with a common plastic; polyvinyl chloride (PVC). PVC is a plastic that contains pollutants which are harmful to the environment and are slow to decompose. And, as there is no true recycle stream for these cards, they typically end up in landfills or get incinerated.

The gift card industry is looking for ways to be more sustainable and the Gift Card Network Forest Materials Committee is taking the lead in the conversation. This group of Merchants, printers, processors, consultants, and substrate manufacturers are joining forces to address the reasons that some merchants have not yet embraced greener substrates. There are many durable paper and wood substrates available in the marketplace which use less energy to manufacture, come from sustainable resources and are recyclable, compostable, and bio-degrade in a fraction of the amount of time when compared to plastic.

For more information visit: <http://www.thegiftcardnetwork.com/detail/746/Forest-Materials---Paper-and-Wood-Myths-Campaign>.



Programs

Forestry Commission Deploys 22 (so far) to Western Assignments

Responding to multiple requests from the US Forest Service over the past four months, the South Carolina Forestry Commission has sent 22 of its employees to join crews working on dozens of wildfires across six western states.

Eight personnel have been deployed to Texas, seven to California, three to Idaho, two to Oregon, and one each to Washington and Alaska in roles ranging from wildland firefighter and heavy equipment boss to tractor plow operator and public information officer.

While South Carolina has experienced a relatively mild fire season, the western United States is seeing one of the worst wildfire summers on record. In addition to Doug Mills going to Alaska in July, 13 SCFC employees were deployed across the west just as six other Commission firefighters returned from a complex of fires in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest near Redding, Calif., where they spent two weeks working on a hand crew.

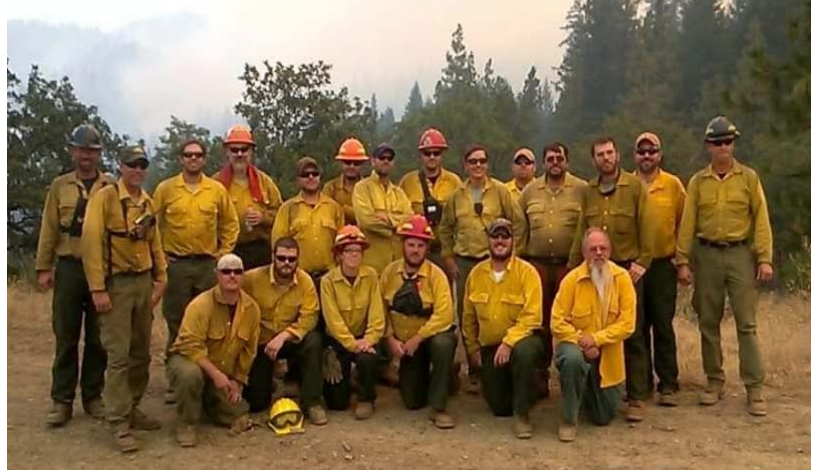
Information

- Doug Wood

“Wildland firefighters from around the country are called to help on out-of-state assignments whenever large fires overwhelm local and even regional resources,” said SCFC Duty Officer Brad Bramlett. “It’s dirty, dangerous and exhausting work, but they are trained for it. And we’re happy to send help when we can because you never know when we may need out-of-state assistance. Always being prepared and ready to go is just part of the job.”

The employees are working under a cooperative agreement that the South Carolina Forestry Commission has with three federal firefighting agencies, the US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Park Service. Their identities are not revealed for their and their families’ safety. “Despite the danger, it’s good for our team members to answer the call,” said SCFC Fire Protection Chief Darryl Jones. “Not only are they providing help in a range of critical areas, but they’re also getting valuable experience they can bring back home.”

Media coverage of the SCFC employees traveling west to help on some of the nation’s worst wildfires has been abundant and extensive. Edgefield, McCormick and Saluda Project Forester Ben Kendall shared a library of photos from his stint on the Fork Complex that news media all over the state have been posting and reporting about on their broadcasts, newspapers and websites.



The hand crew in California, including six Forestry Commission personnel who just returned.



Fire personnel are lined up for their flight out west.



Firefighters monitor a road.



Edgefield/McCormick/Saluda Project Forester Ben Kendall is ready to hit the fireline on the Fork Complex fires.

Photos on this page provided by Ben Kendall.

Programs

TELE Workshop Energizes Outreach for Regional Forestry Organizations

The Commission headquarters played host to a two-day marketing workshop in July aimed at helping several forestry-related organizations identify and better communicate with their audiences.

Organized by SCFC Forest Management Chief Russell Hubright, the Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively (TELE) clinic was conducted by the Sustaining Family Forests Initiative, a collaboration between the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, the US Forest Service, and the Center for Nonprofit Strategies.

SFFI facilitators Mary Tyrell and Emma Kravet, both from Yale, and Center founder Purnima Chawla worked with three groups – SC Tree Farm, The Longleaf Alliance and the Indian Creek Restoration Initiative – to identify a specific goal for each organization and develop a communication plan to achieve it.



Facilitator Purnima Chawla helps attending organizations develop a communications plan.



Facilitator Purnima Chawla leads participants to identify a specific goal for each organization.



Public Information Director Doug Wood, Stewardship Coordinator Scott Phillips, Piedmont Stewardship Forester Jaime Jones, Deputy State Forester Tom Patton, and State Forester Gene Kodama sit in on the session.

Information

- Doug Wood

Participants were given an overview of the USFS' National Woodland Survey, revealing insights about the different types of landowners and their motivations, a presentation on the behavioral nature of marketing and a seminar that provided step-by-step instructions for crafting focused messages that persuade people to take action.

The groups then broke off into brainstorming sessions and, assisted by SFFI facilitators, developed communication plans that culminated in a targeted message to each group's constituents.



Participants took part in brainstorming sessions around the headquarters.



Breakout sessions developed communications plans with targeted messages for each group.



Spoooner Oak in Georgia Could Be Champion Tree

A huge live oak has been discovered in the far southwest corner of Georgia near the Alabama line. This oak, known as the “Spoooner Oak” is located in Iron City, Ga. and has an unofficial circumference of 400 inches (33.3 ft.) and a diameter of 127.3 inches (10.61 ft.). Staff with the official Big Tree Registry will be measuring the tree for national champion status. Look out “Seven Sisters” of Louisiana!



The “Spoooner Oak” in Georgia is to be measured to determine its national status.

Urban Forestry

- Lowe Sharpe

WOOD MAGIC Still in Need of Volunteers

The Wood Magic Forest Fair to be held at the Piedmont Forestry Center Sept. 15-18 still needs volunteers. We have 27 spots open as guides and instructors, and this event is quickly approaching. If you can help, please contact Matt Schnabel at (803)896-8892 or by email at mschnabel@scfc.gov. To view the current schedule, visit : <http://www.trees.sc.gov/woodmagic.htm>.

Education

- Matt Schnabel

Piedmont East Unit Celebrates Kenny Mullis’ Retirement

The Piedmont East Unit celebrated the retirement of Piedmont East Unit Forestry Technician Kenny Mullis July 31. The group met for breakfast at Cracker Barrel in Irmo. Kenny served 20 years with the agency and is looking forward to his new business ventures during his retirement.

Kenny celebrated immediately afterwards with a cruise to Alaska. We will miss Kenny and wish him well in his retirement!

Piedmont East

- Sam St. Louis



Richland/Lexington Supervisor Sam St. Louis presents retired Piedmont East Unit Forestry Technician Kenny Mullis with a plaque from the East Unit for his service.



Piedmont Regional Forester Mike Bozzo presents Kenny with his state service certificate.



Piedmont East personnel enjoy the celebratory breakfast at Cracker Barrel in Irmo.

CPFM Classes Scheduled

Please pass this information on to landowners and cooperators who may be interested.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is offering training for individuals seeking to be Certified Prescribed Fire Managers. Certification can reduce the liability for those who conduct outdoor burning.

Training sessions are scheduled as follows:

<u>Session date</u>	<u>Location</u>
October 14, 2015	Columbia
October 20, 2015	Florence
November 17, 2015	Ridgeland
January 12, 2016	Columbia

Training & Safety

- Leslie Woodham

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 a.m. and close by 5 p.m. with an administered test.

To register for the course, please visit: <http://www.state.sc.us/forest/cpfm.htm> and complete the registration form, then mail it with your \$50 registration fee. Applications are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. The deadline for registration is three weeks before each course.

Reference materials and specific details regarding locations will be mailed two weeks before each session.

For more information, please call Leslie Woodham at (803) 896-8809.

PFC Meeting Scheduled

The 2015 SC Prescribed Fire Council Meeting will be held Sept. 23-24, 2015 in Walterboro.

This is a one-and-a-half day workshop. The first day will be an early afternoon joint field tour hosted by the SCPFC and the SoloACE Longleaf Partnership at Clarendon Farms Plantation in Beaufort. This will be a field tour with Jason Hewett, plantation manager, discussing the management objectives, prescribed fire use and marketing of longleaf pine. Folk Land Management will have a drone demonstration. The first day will conclude with a social at the Colleton Museum and Farmers Market in Walterboro.

The second day will be held at the Colleton Center in Walterboro starting around 9 a.m. This will be a classroom format, and lunch will be served. Topics will include: Effects of Fire on Wildlife, Air Quality, Ozone Standards, Weather and Spot Forecast, Prescribed Burning Teams and other general updates.

Please visit: www.scpfc.net for more information and the full agenda.

To register, go to: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sc-prescribed-fire-council-annual-meeting-tickets-17797383453>

Individuals can register for Day 1 (\$25 limited space), Day 2 (\$40) or Both Days (\$65). Thanks to our sponsors, we are able to offer a reduced rate for landowners to attend. For reduced rate or questions please contact Derrick Phinney, dphinne@clemson.edu or (843) 563-0135, ext. 3.



Out-of-State Fire Deployment: Doug Mills' Alaska Assignment

During our extremely hot and humid July, Equipment Coordinator Doug Mills packed his bags and headed to Alaska to cool off for an out-of-state fire assignment on the Tetlin Hills Fire. Doug left July 21 for the fire in southeastern Alaska and after 13 hours of flying and five hours driving he reached his destination in Tok, AK.

When Doug arrived, the Tetlin Hills Fire was 80% contained with approximately 80 people assigned to it. Fire camp was setup at the Tok Dog Musers Club. Doug pitched his tent outside the Club and reported for work inside the cabin.

The fuels around Tok are similar to our bay fuels.

Doug was assigned the Resource Unit Leader position on the fire and had to check-in resources, help prepare the IAP (Incident Action Plan), and had to request tickets for resources as

they were sent home. He also had to check-in and demobilize resources on the nearby Long Lake Fire which was burning close to 30,000 acres. Long Lake resources had to travel right by the Tetlin Hills Fire check-in so they were handling resources for both fires until Tetlin Hills Fire was contained.

Tok is located in the southeastern part of Alaska, approximately 90 miles from Canada. It is known as the coldest inhabited community in North America. It hosts one of the most elite sprint sled dog races in North America and has long been known as the "Sled Dog Capital of Alaska," and many of its residents are involved in some

way with dogs and dog mushing. (For more information, visit: <http://www.tokalaskainfo.com/>)

The Tetlin Hills Fire started June 20 and burned 1878 acres. It was contained at the end of July and resources were either sent home or reassigned to the Long Lake Fire. Doug returned to South Carolina July 30 after a grueling 32 hours of travel.

After returning, Doug said Alaska was beautiful and that he wanted to go back. The temperatures during the day were around 73 degrees and only in the mid-40s at night. The bugs weren't bad either, and he saw moose. The only problem he faced was that it was never really dark at night. It was light from 2:30 a.m. until 11 p.m. He did put a dark tarp over his tent at night which helped.

He was also surprised to find that the Alaska fuels around Tok are like our bay fuels – deep and organic soils with bogs. They used three types of suppression on the fire: dozers, water line/pump line, and hand crews. They constructed 22 miles of dozer line and had to deal with hitting perma frost below the surface.

On an interesting note, he met two Eskimo fire crews from the Arctic Circle who live in a village that is only accessible by air or water. Fighting wildfires is the only job they have year round so they have to make enough money then to make ends meet.

Doug highly recommends taking a trip to Alaska. The scenery he says is "unlike anything I have seen in the lower 48 states, and the people are great!" He just hopes the next time he goes, it



Equipment Coordinator Doug Mills inside his temporary office at the Tok Dog Musers cabin.

will be on a cruise or a hunting trip. It was tough for him to come back to the awful heat and humidity, but there is no place like home!



Doug's tent set up outside the Musher's Club at 11:30 p.m.



The Tetlin Hills Fire burned 1,878 acres.



Doug swears there is a moose in this photo. Can you find him?

Coastal Dispatcher Involved With Surfers Healing Event

The annual Surfers Healing event was held Aug. 20 at Folly Beach. Gracie Riley, daughter of Coastal Dispatcher Christina Riley, has surfed the event since she was 3. Surfers Healing is a program for autistic children to experience surfing with professionals. According to Christina, "Gracie did great again this year, and the event was nothing short of amazing!"

Surfers Healing's mission is to enrich the lives of people living with autism by exposing them to the unique experience of surfing. They hold camps all over the country for this therapeutic experience. Thanks go to all the many great volunteers and locals that make this experience possible for the children.

Donations are welcomed, and tax deductible at this local event by searching for "Surfers Healing Folly Beach" on Facebook or by contacting Nancy Mitchell Morris at (843) 697-4453. Video of the Surfers Healing Folly Beach is also available on

Facebook. For more information on Surfers Healing, please visit: <http://www.surfershealing.org/>.



Gracie Riley enjoys surfing with professional surfer Justin Camacho.



Coastal Dispatcher Christina Riley with daughter Gracie after their surfing experience on Folly Beach.

Bonsai Survived Hiroshima

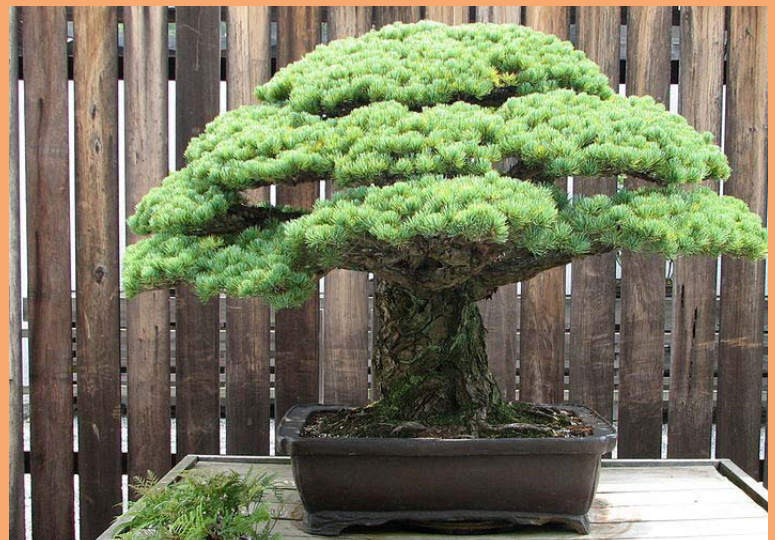
On display at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum at the United States National Arboretum is this remarkable Japanese White Pine (*Pinus parviflora* 'Miyajima') bonsai sometimes known as Hiroshima Survivor. According to the tree's display placard, it has been in training since 1625, making it 388 years old. Oh, and it survived the atomic blast in Hiroshima.

In 1976 as part of Japan's Bicentennial gift to the American people, bonsai master Masaru Yamaki donated one of his most prized bonsai. The Yamaki family operated a commercial bonsai nursery in Hiroshima for several generations (the nursery is now a private bonsai collection).

On the morning of Aug. 6, 1945, all the Yamaki family members were inside their home. The bomb exploded less than two miles from the family compound. The blast blew out all the glass windows in the home, and each member of the family was cut from the flying glass fragments. Miraculously, none of them suffered any permanent injury.

The great old Japanese white pine and a large number of other bonsai were sitting on benches in the garden. Amazingly, none of these bonsai were harmed by the blast either, as the nursery was protected by a tall wall. The bonsai originally came from Miyajima Island which is just south of Hiroshima. Japanese white pine bonsai from Miyajima are considered very valuable because they are so rare.

<http://twistedifter.com/2013/08/centuries-old-japanese-white-pine-bonsai-that-survived-hiroshima/>



The Hiroshima Survivor is 388 years old.

Educational Workshops Held Around the State

Over the past few weeks several environmental workshops for educators have been held around the state.

Sandhills Primary Prek-8 Workshop

The entire Sandhills Primary School faculty was trained in the PreK-8 module. The schools hopes to use PLT to increase its use of their outdoor learning areas.



Participants create a tree model using edible parts.



Participants use their bodies to create the shape of their leaves.

Education

- Stephanie Kolok

Early Childhood Workshop

SC PLT held a workshop for early childhood educators at the SC Aquarium in Charleston. Participants enjoyed experiencing many of the environmental education activities geared for 3-6-year-olds, which included snacks and dancing!



Participants make bark rubbings as a part of the "Adopt a Tree" activity.



Participants create a tree model and act out their role in the tree. Those seated are the roots, and they chanted "gurgle, gurgle, slurp, slurp, water for the tree." Those flexing their muscles are the trunk and they chanted "We are strong."



Participants compete in a relay race in the activity "Birds and Worms," which teaches the concept of camouflage.

Advanced Climate Change Education Workshop

In this joint effort with Congaree National Park, SC PLT not only equipped educators to use the newest PLT module, Southeastern Forest and Climate Change, but also gave them knowledge about climate changes' effects in the bottom-land forests at Congaree National Park.



Workshop participants role-play differing views on climate change to learn how to work towards real solutions with those of differing opinions.



David Shelley, Congaree National Park, led participants on a hike in the park to discuss the research happening in the park related to climate change.



Atta Boy

Below is a letter from DHEC to IMT Coordinator Steve Moore dated Aug. 7 concerning our incident management team's participation in the Southern Exposure 2015 Exercise. This was an exercise for a hypothetical breach at the H.B. Robinson Nuclear Plant in Hartsville.

Dear Mr. Moore:

Thank you for your support and participation in the Southern Exposure 2015 (SE15) exercise, conducted on July 21 -23, 2015. The State of South Carolina's Incident Management Team's participation and support helped us play in the largest fixed nuclear facility exercise ever conducted in South Carolina. The overall exercise was a success due to your assistance and cooperation.

IMT assisted in organizing and writing the Incident Action Plan (IAP) for the exercise, as well as providing the badging system for the SE 15 participants. Your team served as the conduit between the Operations and Planning Sections within the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC) and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) response operations.

We especially, appreciated the initial briefings and periodic full staff briefs, that assured us that FRMAC staff were aware of all of DHEC's Field Teams past and future response activities. We sincerely and deeply appreciate your support, enthusiasm and energy during the entire SE 15 exercise.

Thanks again.

*Chris Staton, Director
Division of Emergency Response
Bureau of Environmental Health Services*

Dispatcher Cheers Her Nephew to the World Series

Great News!

Piedmont Dispatcher Tracy Fulmer recently had something good to cheer about... her nephew playing in the American Legion World Series (ALWS).

The South Carolina Champions, Chapin-Newberry, became the first South Carolina team in 79 years to win the ALWS championship. They defeated Louisiana 9-2 Aug. 18 at Keeter Stadium in Shelby, N.C. Chapin-Newberry ended its championship season with a 32-1 record.

Tracy's nephew Justin Hawkins played an important role in the victory for Post 193/24, scoring two in the first inning on his homer to lead 2-1. Hawkins homered in each of the final three games of the tournament and was named the tournament MVP.

During the postgame ceremony, Hawkins was awarded the George W. Rulon American Legion Player of the Year Award. In regional and ALWS play, Hawkins hit .368 with five home runs and 12 RBIs. His effort also won him the Dr. Irvin L "Click" Cowger RBI Award for the most RBIs and Big Stick Award for the most total bases (31) and best shortstop of the series.

Justin is from Prosperity and is a sophomore at USC Sumter, where he plays baseball for the Sumter Fire Ants.

Tracy is very proud of her nephew and was happy to be there to cheer him on and bring the title back to South Carolina. Congratulations!



Piedmont Dispatcher Tracy Fulmer with her nephew Justin Hawkins at the American Legion World Series.

Human Resources

New SLTD Rate Factors Effective September 1

On September 1, 2015, the premium rate factors below will go into effect for Supplemental Long Term Disability Insurance (SLTD). SLTD is offered through Standard Insurance Company.

Subscriber's age on the preceding January 1	90-day waiting period	180-day waiting period
Under age 31	.00056	.00045
31 through 40	.00078	.00060
41 through 50	.00154	.00117
51 through 60	.00311	.00239
61 through 65	.00374	.00287
66 or older	.00457	.00351

Human Resources

- Lynn Rivers

Please feel free to contact Allison Talbot, Benefits Administrator (803) 896-7059 for assistance in calculating your new rate.

Minnesota Life changes customer service number

Minnesota Life Insurance Company's customer service telephone number for PEBA subscribers is now (866)486-5298.

This toll-free, dedicated line is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Minnesota Life's other numbers, which are listed in the online 2015 Insurance Benefits Guide and in the Contact Connection Directory, remain the same.

Health Screening - Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Columbia Headquarters Workplace Screening in August. We had a wonderful response this year from employees within our own agency as well as from SLED.

This is a valuable health screening tool and a very worthwhile benefit. PEBA providing this benefit free of charge in 2015 for employees made this service even more appealing. We look forward to hosting a Workplace Screening each year and hope to see participation continue to increase.

Below is a list of other screenings around the state.

September 2015

Columbia Regional Screening - Location: Capital Center Building, located at 1201 Main Street in Columbia
Sept. 9, 2015 Register at <http://www.eip.sc.gov/prevention/training/register/1311/columbia-regional-screening>

Columbia Regional Screening - Location: Capital Center Building, located at 1201 Main Street in Columbia
Sept. 10, 2015 Register at <http://www.eip.sc.gov/prevention/training/register/1312/columbia-regional-screening>

October 2015

Rock Hill Regional Screening - Location: Catawba Regional Center, located at 215 Hampton Street in Rock Hill
Oct. 15, 2015 Register at <http://www.eip.sc.gov/prevention/training/register/1314/rock-hill-regional-screening>

November 2015

Darlington Regional Screening - Location: Darlington School District's Administration Building #6, 120 E. Smith Avenue in Darlington
Nov. 20, 2015 Register at <http://www.eip.sc.gov/prevention/training/register/1313/darlington-regional-screening>

December 2015

Anderson Regional Screening - Location: Anderson Community Long Term Care, located at 3215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Anderson, Dec. 4, 2015 Register at <http://www.eip.sc.gov/prevention/training/register/1318/anderson-regional-screening>

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

JOB TITLE: Program Manager II - Division Director of Administration

OPENING DATE: 8/31/2015

AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MIN: \$57,299.00

CLOSING DATE: 9/10/2015 11:59 PM

AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MAX: \$89,832.00

LOCATION: Richland County

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES: Serves as the Division Director of Administration for the S.C. Forestry Commission. Directs aspects of the Division of Administration's operational activities in the following areas: budget, accounting, procurement, grants and human resources. Interprets and administers state and federal laws, rules and regulations regarding fiscal responsibility and accountability, procurement and human resources. Assists with the agency's legislative and Governor's Office communications and interaction. Develops, in conjunction with the State Forester, Deputy State Forester and appropriate staff, an annual legislative strategy to include the agency's budget proposal and legislative needs. Informs the State Forester, Deputy State Forester and appropriate staff of bills with an impact or potential impact affecting the Commission's operations and mission. Assists with legislative committee and subcommittee meetings and reports on proceedings. Fosters and maintains effective relationships with the legislative staff, Governor's Office, government entities, general public and other stakeholders of the agency. Participates as a member of the Agency Director's Executive Staff in problem solving, decision-making, and planning at the executive level. Promotes and actively participates in the agency's operations and strategic planning.

MINIMUM AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: A bachelor's degree and eight (8) years of relevant program experience to include professional, managerial/supervisory experience.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS: A bachelor's degree in accounting and eight (8) years of relevant program experience to include professional, managerial/supervisory experience.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: The successful candidate must be able to exercise a high degree of skill in decision-making, problem solving, communication and strategic planning. Must display sound judgment and make independent decisions that have a critical impact on the agency and the division. Outstanding oral and written communication skills. Knowledge of the federal and state legislative processes. Excellent computer skills are required. The successful candidate must provide an official college/university transcript.

ANDY ROONEY'S "THINGS I'VE LEARNED"

If you will take the time to read these, I promise you'll come away with an enlightened perspective. The subjects covered affect us all on a daily basis: They're written by the late Andy Rooney (60 Minutes), a man who had the gift of saying so much with so few words. Enjoy...

I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned.... That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

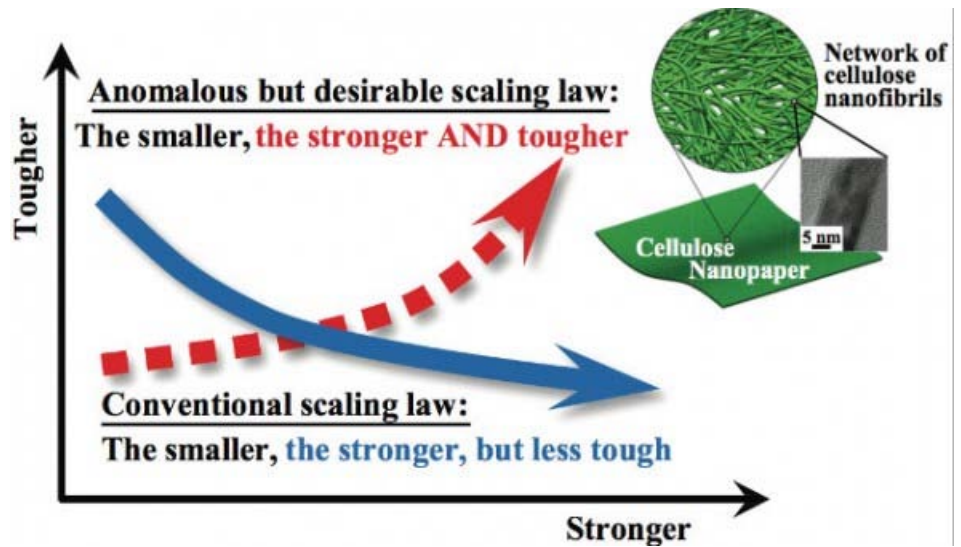
I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

Scientists Developing Super-Strong Paper

Cellulose-based paper may be known for its lightness and flexibility, but scientists are adding an unlikely quality to this versatile material—strength that’s comparable to metal.

Alternative eco-friendly materials that can replace metals are of high demand. The reasons behind this are many, including polluting mining processes, expensive manufacturing of products made of metals, and of course, the need of making everything lighter yet still tough and strong.

University of Maryland researchers have discovered that using very small cellulose fibers would exponentially strengthen paper, according to a university release. The scientists developed paper sourced from 10-nanometer-thick fibers, which was 40 times tougher (tolerant of damage) and 130 stronger (resistant to non-recoverable deformation) than the



average notebook paper whose cellulose fibers are 1,000 times larger.

Applications for this innovation go beyond tear-resistant notebook paper, such as flexible electronics and displays,

printable solar cells, and even more energy efficient vehicles.

<http://www.greenoptimistic.com/cellulose-nanopaper/#.vCTKcE3bJiw>

Western Fires Take Toll on USFS Budget

According to the US Forest Service, it now spends roughly 52 percent of its total budget on wildfire suppression. For the first time in the agency’s history, more than half of the Forest Service’s annual appropriated budget is devoted to wildfire, up from 16 percent in 1995.

As more western states continue to experience difficult fire seasons, the Forest Service expects to once again be forced to transfer money from non-fire accounts to pay for cost overruns in suppression. This reduces federal support to all other programs including support for state and private forestry. The exact timing and extent of the transfers depends on fire activity over the balance of fiscal year 2015, which ends Sept. 30.

As the costs of fighting wildfires grow each year with longer, hotter, more unpredictable fire seasons, the Forest Service has experienced significant shifts in staffing and resources. In effect, the Forest Service has nearly half a billion dollars less, in 2015 dollars,

than it did in 1995 to handle non-fire related programs—the bulk of its programming. There has also been a 39 percent loss of nonfire personnel, from approximately 18,000 in 1998 to fewer than 11,000 in 2015, while the fire staff has more than doubled.

By 2025, the cost of fire suppression is expected to grow to nearly \$1.8 billion dollars, according to today’s report, but the Forest Service would be expected to absorb those costs into its regular budget, which has remained relatively flat. And if these trends continue, the Forest Service will be forced to take an additional \$700 million dollars over the next 10 years from all the other programs. No other natural disasters are funded this way. When fire suppression costs more than Congress appropriates to the Forest Service in any given year, the agency is forced to transfer additional funds from already depleted programs, called “fire transfer.”

The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, already introduced in the House and



Senate, is an important step forward in addressing the funding problems. The proposed legislation, which mirrors a similar proposal in President Obama’s Fiscal Year 2016 budget, would provide a fiscally responsible mechanism to treat wildfires more like other natural disasters, end “fire transfers” and partially replenish the ability to restore resilient forests and protect against future fire outbreaks.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/about-agency/budget-performance/cost-fire-operations>

First All-Timber Commercial Structure in US Breaks Ground

Construction started in July on the country's first all-timber office building in Minneapolis. The interior and exterior of the 220,000-square-foot, seven-story structure (known locally as T3, for the designer's attention to timber, transit and technology) will be built with engineered wood.

The architect, Vancouver-based Michael Green, is well-known in green building circles for his expertise in heavy timber construction and for his efforts to encourage others to rely on timber as a sustainable building material.

Aside from making extensive use of wood, the building is notable because it will be the tallest all-timber building in the US and because the developer is building it on spec — that is, it has no tenant lined up to occupy the offices once construction wraps up.

<http://www.startribune.com/developer-breaks-ground-on-modern-all-timber-office-building-in-north-loop-minneapolis/318684551/>

After 150 Years, Gifford Pinchot Still Impacting Forestry

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of a forestry legend, let's look back at his legacy in forestry.

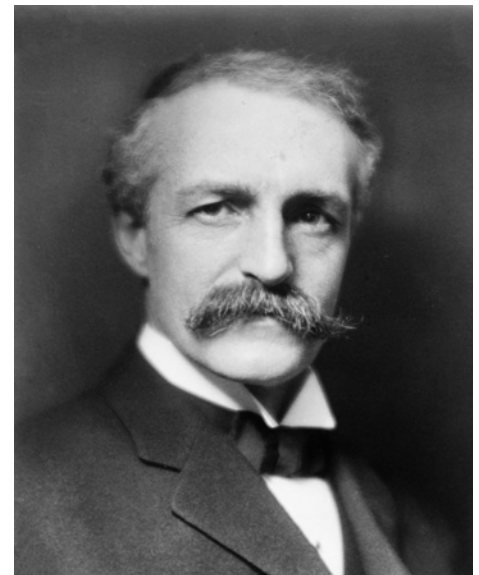
August 11 marked the 150th anniversary of Gifford Pinchot's birth in Simsbury, Ct. It was the beginning of a long and productive life dedicated to serving the public interest, first through introducing Americans to the concepts of forest conservation and sustained-yield management, and then bringing his missionary zeal and political skills to the creation of essential forest science, education, and professional organizations that continue to this day—the US Forest Service, the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, and the Society of American Foresters.

In many ways, it has taken society this long to catch up to his ideas. Writing in 1911 in his book *The Fight for Conservation*, Pinchot advocated for what we today think of as the concept of sustainability—conserving and carefully managing forests and other natural resources in a manner that is economically viable, but also environmentally sound and socially responsible. Going beyond just science and economics, Pinchot helped introduce the idea that there are certain moral and ethical aspects to responsible natural resource management, a theme on which many others have since expanded, perhaps most notably Aldo Leopold in his essay on “The Land

Ethic” in the book *A Sand County Almanac*.

This theme is at the heart of the Grey Towers Protocol, a set of principles hammered out during the peak of the national controversy over federal forest management and the protection of habitat for endangered species on all forests, public and private. Soon, this controversy would command the presence of the nation's President, Vice President, and several members of the President's cabinet, who hosted the summit in Oregon that produced the Northwest Forest Plan. This year is the 25th anniversary of Grey Towers Protocol, and it is more than coincidental that its principles echo through the Northwest Forest Plan and the much broader policy shift toward more ecologically sound forest management that continues today.

Throughout his long life, Gifford Pinchot's conservation philosophy continued to evolve. He came to see the scarcity of natural resources—for food, water, shelter, and energy—as one of the main drivers of international conflict, and he proposed to President Franklin Roosevelt that the US convene a global summit to promote international cooperation on natural resource policy and economics. Ironically, World War II intervened, prompted by Germany's expansionist quest for land and resources. The summit Pinchot proposed was



Gifford Pinchot

eventually held in 1948 in New York, but it was not until the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 that the key issues were addressed comprehensively.

He was the founding chief of the US Forest Service, launched the Society of American Foresters, and, with his parents, underwrote the establishment of the Yale Forest School. By the time he was 40, Pinchot had created an entire profession.

http://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2015/08/on_his_150th_birthday_why_are.html#incart_river

Plan the Future of the Francis Marion National Forest

Your voice matters. The US Forest Service invites you to preview the draft management plan for the Francis Marion National Forest.

Tuesday, Oct. 6

2 - 5 p.m.

**Berkeley County Assembly Room
1003 Hwy 52, Moncks Corner, SC 29461**

At this meeting, learn and share information about:

- How the plan would guide future projects and activities on the forest.
- Linking people and the surrounding communities with nature.
- Desired conditions for longleaf pine, savannas, streams, rivers and wetlands.
- Managing threatened/endangered species like the red-cockaded woodpecker.

Agenda:

- Sharing information about the new plan and how it would guide future projects and activities on the forest (us).
- Learn how to provide feedback on the new plan (you).

To register or for more information, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/scnfs

A copy of the draft plan, the draft environmental impact statement and other information can be found on the Web at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/scnfs/fmplan. Throughout the 90-day comment period, comments may be submitted at <http://bit.do/FMPlanComments>.

In addition, hard-copy comments may be mailed to:

**Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests
Francis Marion Plan Revision
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212.**

Collection Date Set for Unwanted Pesticides

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) is partnering with Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center (REC) to accept unwanted or unused pesticides Sept. 10 from 7:45 a.m.- 2:45 p.m. This free collection event will be held in conjunction with the annual Farm Field Day at the Pee Dee REC.

The pesticide and chemical collection program is open to all private, commercial and non-commercial pesticide applicators in the state, as well as homeowners. SCDA staff will be on site to monitor pesticide collection and disposal, and will have final authority on acceptance of products.

- Chemical and pesticide quantities accepted will be limited to 2500 pounds of solid and 300 gallons of liquid at no charge.
- Pesticide products accepted include herbicides, insecticides, nematicides, fungicides and similar products used in agricultural production or around the home.
- Rinsate water will not be accepted.
- Fertilizer will not be accepted unless it is combined or co-packed with a pesticide such as weed and feed.
- No compressed gas cylinders (metal cylinder with a valve) or empty pesticide containers will be collected.

The Pee Dee REC is located at 2200 Pocket Road in Florence. Pesticides may be dropped off without attending the field day activities. For more information regarding pesticide collection, contact SCDA Consumer Services Director John Stokes at (803) 737-9696 or jstokes@scda.sc.gov.

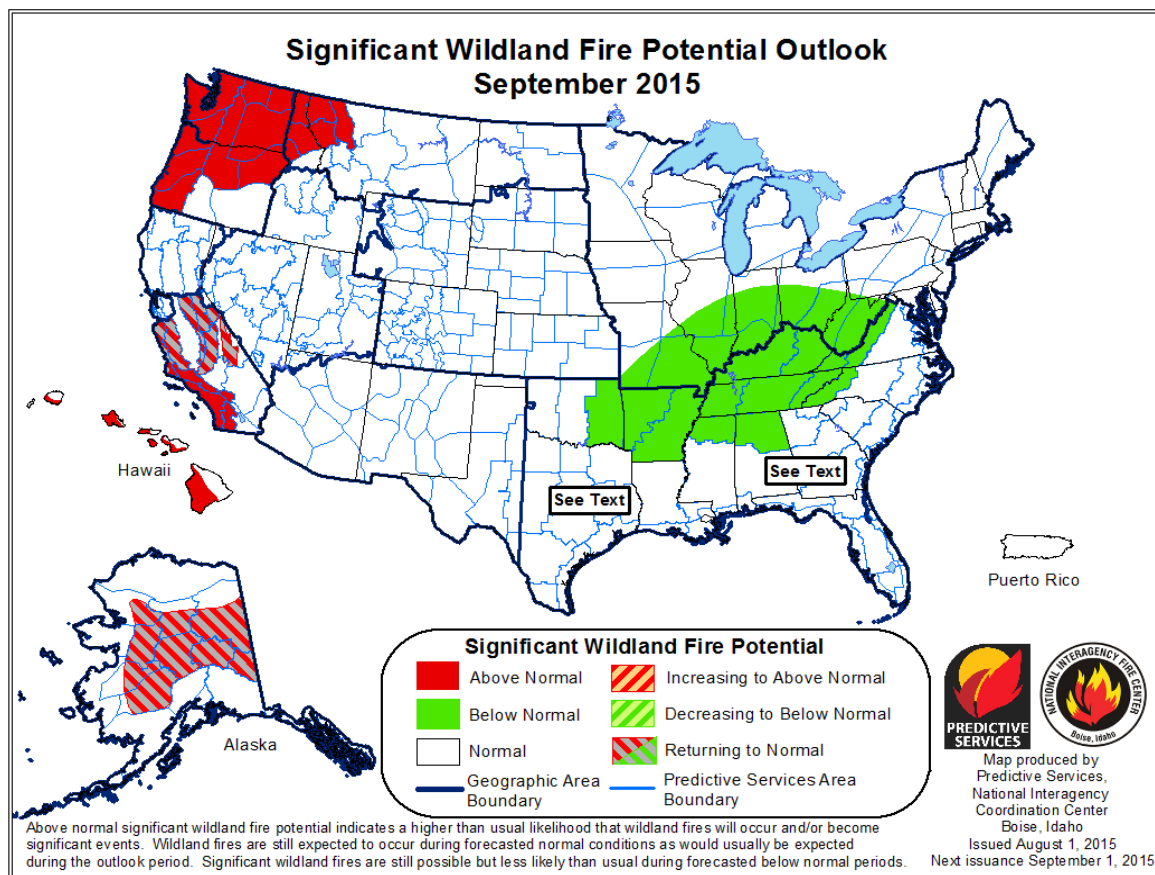
Fire Weather Outlook

Southern Area

Significant wildland fire potential is expected to continue at or below normal through September with the majority of the Area becoming below normal in October and November.

While there has not been much of a change in short and long term drought from June, persistent high pressure west of the Mississippi River has allowed a month's worth of limited precipitation to significantly lower fuel moistures from Louisiana to Texas. KBDI better represents the crescent of the drier trending pattern with much of the southeastern states showing KBDI deficits.

The national drought picture is somewhat similar with longer term drought mainly identified across South Carolina with deep south Florida still in short term drought. The drier and warmer pattern across the South last month is expected to persist into August and September. While temperatures have warmed considerably, the pattern has also produced high humidity and some periods of daily thunderstorms that have limited fire activity. As the current moderate to strong El Niño episode is expected to continue to strengthen, a transition to a more robust and widespread rainfall pattern across the Southern Area is expected for September to November. Puerto Rico continues to see a drier tropical rainy season which could spur increases in fire potential for the island especially east and south.



Current Fire Numbers for South Carolina

MONTH AND YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS 5 AND 10-YEAR AVERAGE

Time Period	AUG		JULY-AUG		FISCAL YEAR	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
5 Year Average	57	148.6	186	1,203.0	2,067	13,149.3
10 Year Average	93	453.8	227	1,315.1	2,365	15,982.3
Current FY ¹	87	507.8	240	1,437.6	240	1,437.6

¹To date for current fiscal year



*Then the coal company came with the world's largest shovel,
And they tortured the timber and stripped all the land.
Well, they dug for their coal till the land was forsaken,
Then they wrote it all down as the progress of man.*

Song: "Paradise"

Artist: John Prine

Album: April 1982 concert hosted by Johnny Cash

Listen: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsjm4dm4_gE

Thanks to retiree Rhett Bickley for sending in this song.

Can you think of a song with tree- or forestry-related lyrics? Let us know, and we'll share it with everyone.

Photo of the Week



State Forester Gene Kodama sent in this photo of a baby Cottontail Rabbit he came across in the woods in June. He was well camouflaged.

FUN NEWS



Coastal Dispatch Manager Kelly Banks recently gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, River Mason Banks. River was born weighing 9 lbs 10 oz and was 20.5" long. Congratulations Kelly!

Quote of the Month

In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson.

Tom Bodett

Please send in your photos to Michelle Johnson at mjohnson@scfc.gov.

NOW AND THEN

Employees' Resourcefulness One of Agency's Greatest Strengths

The Forestry Commission has always been a very resourceful agency. Using the many skills of its employees with a mechanical or welding background has helped keep agency spending down for several projects from truck bed construction to building offices.

Traditionally, the SCFC prepared all new firefighting units for field use until 1999. Constructing our own transport truck bodies and beds was far more economical than having them fabricated by an outside vendor. Our staff built truck beds, wired the lights and radios, and even built cab canopies and screens. Most of the work on new units was done in Columbia, but some of it was done at the district shops. Sometimes mechanics from the district shops were sent to Columbia to work for a few days. We didn't contract the work because we had a lot of full-time mechanics and welders.

The biggest work project came in 1996 with an equipment replacement purchase of 56 transports and over 40 dozers. Retiree Ken Cabe said, "The 1996 effort was huge because we had experienced many years of funding deficits, and the legislature finally made a bunch of money available." Our staff needed help to get this many units ready. Forestry technicians/wardens, supervisors, and mechanics were called in to the Columbia shop for work detail of fabricating the units. Employees would come in for a week at a time and work in crews of four. There were two shifts and five crews working during the week.

Metal was purchased in bulk. Mechanics in Columbia started cutting the metal to prepare for construction. This took three months. When the trucks came in, employees were brought in to the shop to build and install 56 bodies. Our employees performed the welding, cutting, grinding, installing bed boards, wiring, and painting. Truck bodies were built, ramps cut and welded, stop bars and light bars created, and wiring run. The whole process took a year-and-a-half to complete.

Today transport bodies are built by numerous manufacturers and they cost approximately \$18,000. Dozers now come with all forestry protection components (screens, fire wrap on hydraulic lines, toolboxes, etc.) already installed.

Kudos to the many employees who have contributed to all of the various projects around the state!

[NOTE: All photos are from the big 1996 Transport Fabrication Project]



Employees lay out the metal to be welded on the ramp.



An employee runs wiring for the ramp on a transport.



Large amounts of metal had to be cut to build the transport beds.



Welding experience was a big help in the fabrication of the truck bodies and beds.