



SOUTHERN REGIONAL EXTENSION FORESTRY

2005
ANNUAL
REPORT
& 2006
PLAN OF
ACTION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



Message from the Regional Extension Forester 3

2005 Regional Review 5

Overview of SREF 10

Programs and Initiatives 16

Products and Technology 22

Activities and Involvements 30

The Road Ahead: 2006 Plan of Action 34





MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL EXTENSION FORESTER



It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the first decade of the 21st Century. We have literally seen the future and it is here! We've had another exciting and productive year at our office here in Athens and in the states around the South. No longer can we simply use catchy phrases such as "change was inevitable" and "we witnessed tremendous change". These are just too passé these days! I will say though, that those of us in the natural resources educational community have been drastically affected by increased change. We have often had to develop educational programs for various clients who need one thing today and perhaps an entirely different thing tomorrow. We develop these programs with the belief (and hope!) that we are helping our audiences make better, more informed decisions. These decisions often impact the lives of generations to come. From that perspective, 2005 can be summed up then as being a challenging, yet exciting time to be in natural resources education.

The Southern Regional Extension Forestry office's mission is simple; we are to provide support and services to the southern natural resources Extension community, USDA Forest Service-Southern Region, state forestry and natural resources agencies, state forestry associations, and others within the natural resources community. This support ranges from the development of regional technology transfer projects and programs to sharing of information and resources so that together we can accomplish more than we could individually.

To that extent, 2005 has been a good year. We have had the great fortune of working closely with all 13 state Extension units, the USDA Forest Service, state forestry agencies, forestry deans and directors and others on a number of projects and programs that have been of mutual benefit. These include but aren't limited to programs such as the Master Wildlifer and Master Tree Farmer satellite video programs, the regional biomass forest management training initiative, several computer information applications (primarily websites), the regional woodlands correspondence course and a host of other activities.

These activities could not have been accomplished without the support of several key partners. The thirteen 1862 Extension Services and the USDA Forest Service provide critical base support through an annually agreed upon Memorandum of Understanding. In addition, several entities,


both public and private, have supported our efforts through contracts, grants and other agreements. These funds allow us to double our efforts and provide a value added service to the forestry community in the South over and above base funding.

With this in mind, please take some time and review this annual report. This report serves both as an accountability document and as a marketing piece. We have such a plethora of programs and projects going on now that it is relatively impossible to communicate them all any other way.

In closing, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us on staff here in the Regional Extension Forestry office. We are here to serve you.

Best wishes for a prosperous 2006.

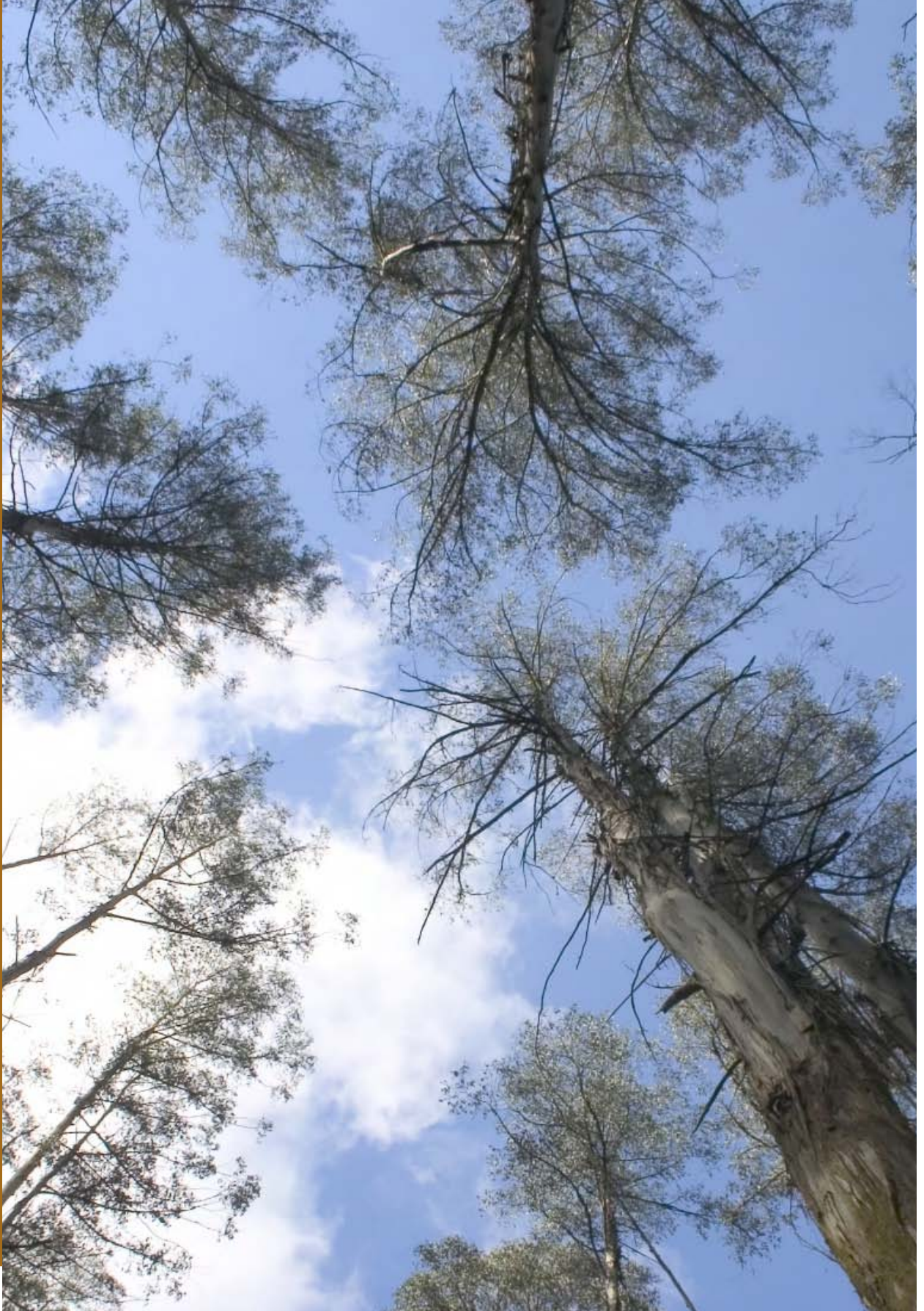
Sincerely,



William G. Hubbard

Southern Regional Extension Forester

P.S. I would like to extend a special thanks to Matt Howell and Elizabeth Jahn who worked extra hard on our annual report this year. Finally, extra special thanks to my wife Joni and sons, Liam, Duncan, Keenan and Sean for their love and support.



2005 REGIONAL REVIEW



2005 was a milestone in the forestry and natural resources arena from many perspectives. The year started off with a bang as we celebrated 100 years of the USDA Forest Service. Regional forums, a national celebration, and even a full-length DVD were among the activities and products produced to honor the storied history of the nation's preeminent forestry agency. The Southern Regional Extension Forestry office would like to offer the Forest Service congratulations for this century of leadership to the forestry community in land management, research and state and private issues.

The first 100 years of the Forest Service also provides us with an opportunity to reflect on how valuable the relationships between this federal agency and the Land-Grant University System is. These relationships continued to expand in 2005 with a number of exciting joint ventures in the Southern United States. Many of these are highlighted in this report, however, there are countless state-level Land-Grant/USDA Forest Service partnerships to be proud of. In fact, the Forest Service and the National Association of University Forest Resource Programs (NAUFRP) are currently working on research and technology transfer agendas designed to be more relevant to our customers.

The year-long celebration and joint activities of the Forest Service and the universities, however, were overshadowed in the late summer as hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma roared ashore. In just a few short weeks, these immense natural disasters reframed our views of how the world works. The economic, social and environmental fabric of several states, the region, the country and in fact the world have been dramatically changed due to these events. While we were encouraged by numerous acts of heroism within our profession and others, we also learned a hard lesson in reality--one we had began to learn already from the disasters of the 2004 hurricane season. These lessons serve as a wake up call that we need to be more prepared to mitigate, restore and plan for these types of events. These events have hopefully provided us with the needed impetus to do a better job preparing at the regional level so that when, not if, the hurricanes hit again, we will be ready.

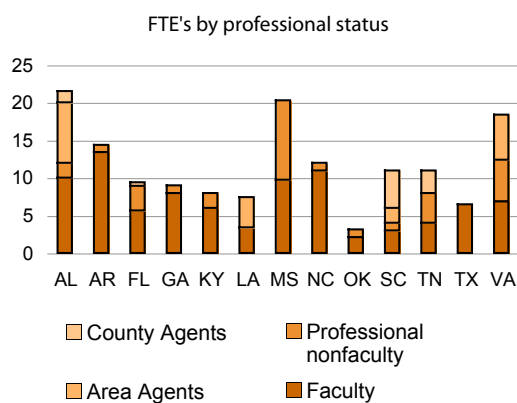


Figure 1 - Number of natural resources extension faculty, staff, and agents by state in the U.S. South.

State Extension Programs Update

The thirteen Southern 1862 Land-Grant Universities continued service to various clients through state level Cooperative and Agricultural Extension Services in 2005. Natural resource Extension Specialists and Agents provided educational programming to forest owners, farmers, youth, urban audiences, wood-using industries, conservation organizations, communities and a host of other audiences. This was accomplished by a unique blend of faculty, professional staff, area and county agents in each state (Figures 1 and 2). These professionals continued to add to their repertoire of teaching methods including several online ventures. There is little doubt left about the need for more effective and efficient natural resource based Extension programming. These online,

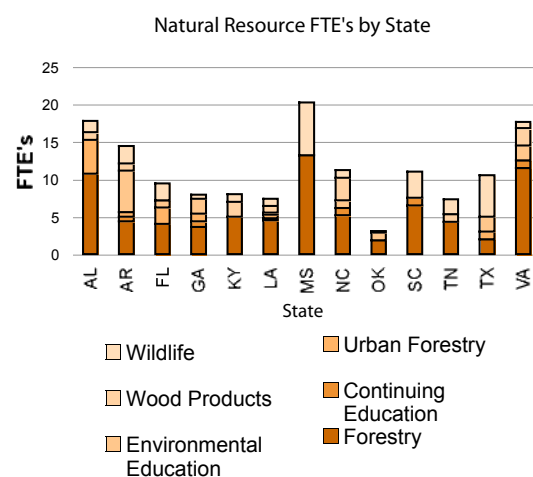


Figure 2 - Number of Extension natural resource professionals by general discipline in each state in the U.S. South.

electronic tools that are being developed can serve to improve our efficiency and effectiveness. A listing of state level Extension websites is available in this document as well as online at <http://www.sref.info>.

Several states have added or are in the process of adding state, multicounty or county natural resources Extension specialists. This is an encouraging trend and one that will hopefully continue. The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service (ACES) for example reorganized recently and now have eight multi-county natural resources specialists. Another example of this growth is Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension, which has added several district natural resource agents that now provide more on-the-ground, local programming to clients. Most other states added or filled at least one state Extension specialist in a natural resources field during 2005. These included specialists in the field of urban forestry, hardwood management, NIPF management, wildlife management, wood products, and environmental education.

Several forestry schools experienced changes at the administrative level. Louisiana State University, Texas A&M, Oklahoma State University, University of Tennessee and North Carolina State University are making changes that even include new administration, restructuring, and merging. The forestry school deans and directors provide support to Extension at various levels. Another exciting

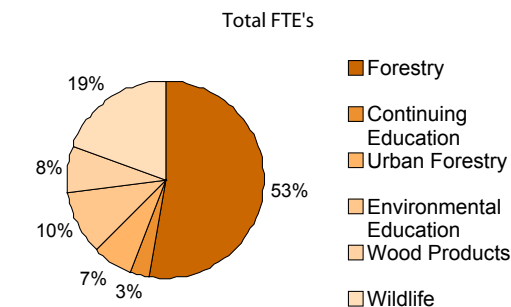


Figure 3 - Percentages of faculty, professional staff, area and county agents by discipline in the U.S. South.

milestone occurred in 2005 when the Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences moved into their new building.

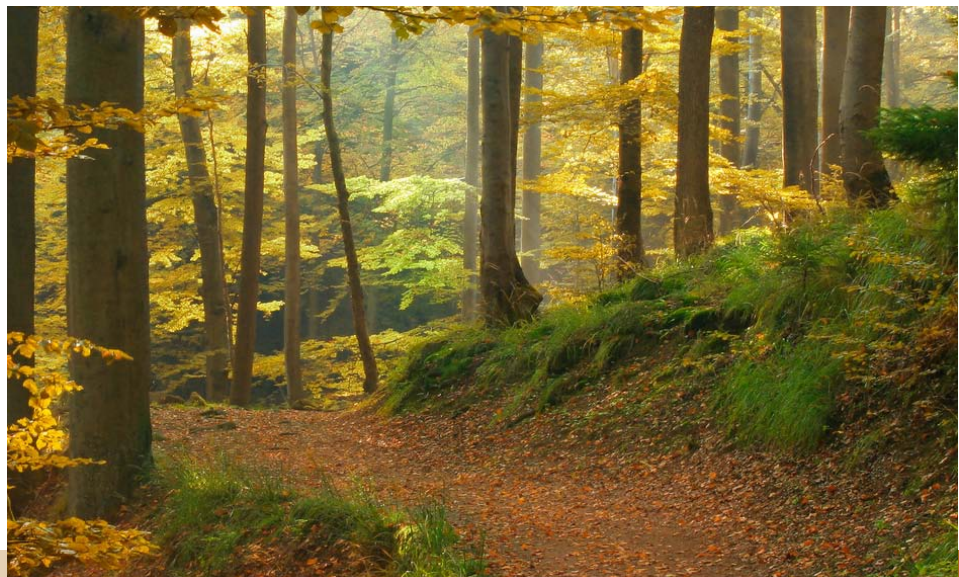
From a programmatic perspective, several activities stand out as exemplary. First, hats off to the state specialists in Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Alabama and Texas for their response following the natural disasters of 2004 and 2005. Several Specialists and agents alike assisted with immediate care following these events; going above and beyond the normal line of duty to ensure the health and safety of the residents in their states. These included for example, post-hurricane stand management materials for both hardwood and pine stands, taxation and casualty loss workshops and information, harvesting issues for logging educational events and opportunities for utilizing hurricane damaged materials. While these areas will continue to face challenges in the future as they rebuild their natural resource infrastructure, the efforts of these natural resource educators should not go unnoticed.

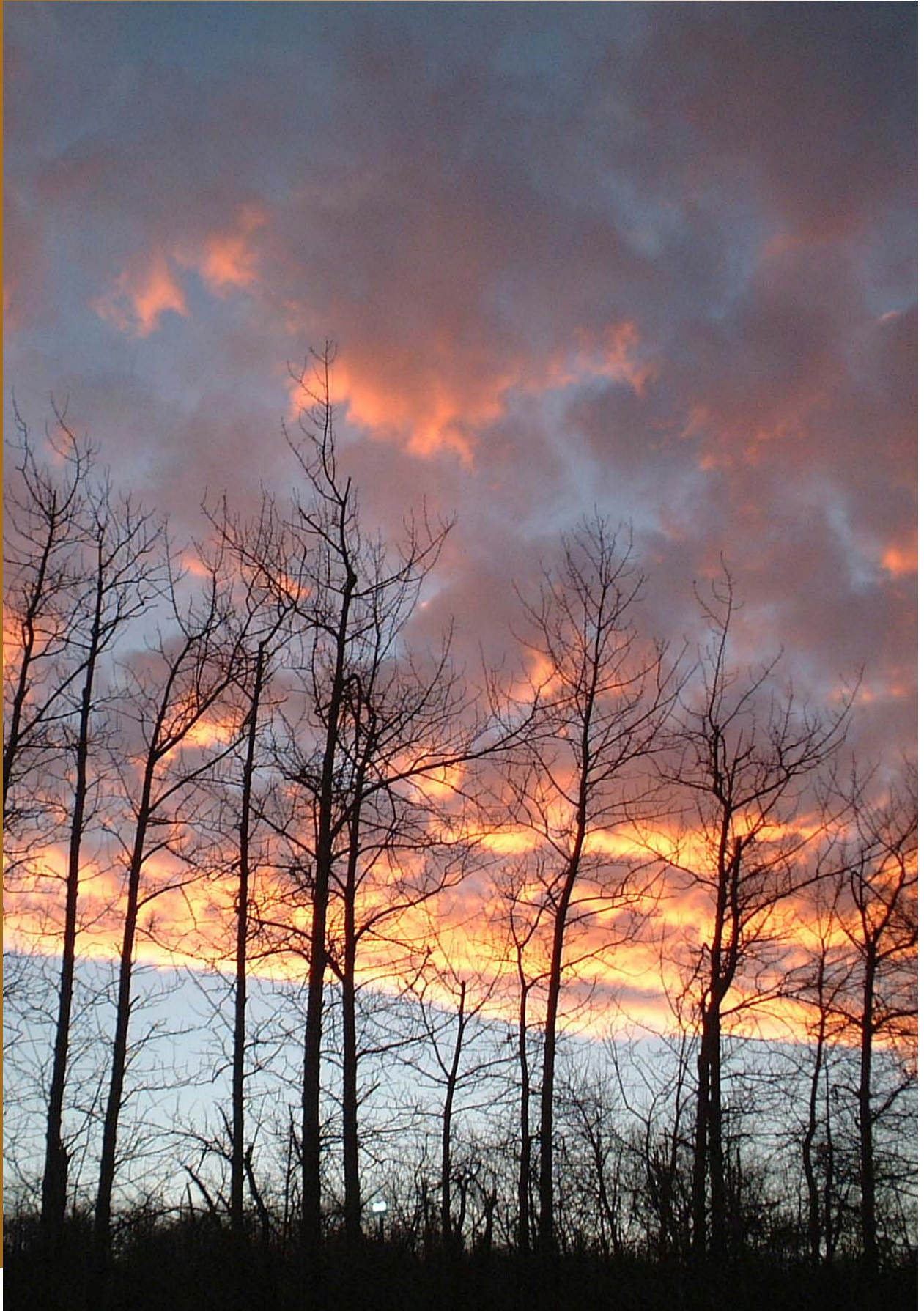
Another activity of regional significance includes the work conducted at the University of Florida to develop training and educational materials for natural resource professionals in the wildland-urban interface. This project neared completion in 2005 and was delivered via a train-the-trainer exercise in early 2006. The process illustrates a successful model that has been used before; USDA Forest Service providing resources to Universities and Extension to develop training materials for state forestry and natural resource agencies. A full set of train-the-trainer materials is available online at <http://www.interfacesouth.org>.

Finally, many states are gearing up for the increased interest in utilizing the Southern forest resource more fully for bioenergy and other biomass products. Extension will play a major role in answering many of

the questions that have arisen due to this increased interest in alternative bio-based products. All the states in the South are involved with a regional biomass/bioenergy initiative that will be reviewed later in this annual report.

These are just a few of the highlights of Extension forestry and natural resource activities throughout the Southern United States. For more information about activities at the state and regional level, please visit the websites listed on page 11.







OVERVIEW OF SREF

The office of the Southern Regional Extension Forester is unique in its role and position among the numerous organizations that play a part in stewarding our nation's natural resources. We pride ourselves in serving state extension forestry and natural resource professionals and other key partners to further forest stewardship in the South with innovative information, tools, and programs to meet the numerous challenges they face.

MISSION

To assist professionals in the South who work on issues related to natural resources, especially state Extension forestry and natural resource professionals, with information and tools that facilitate efficient use of their time and resources.

HISTORY

The position of Southern Regional Extension Forester was created in 1979 to serve as a liaison between the USDA Forest Service and thirteen 1862 Extension forest resource programs in the South. Formally established with a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the thirteen southern land-grant universities and the USDA Forest Service, this document was updated in 2000 and serves as the benchmark for judging the performance and effectiveness of the position. The MOU established that the position would be located in Athens, Georgia with secondary office space provided by the USDA Forest Service in Atlanta as needed. The Extension Service Director at the Uni-

versity of Georgia provides immediate supervision for the position and a regional oversight committee representative of critical partners provides input through an annual review.

Since 1979 the duties of the Regional Extension Forester have evolved to include a regional programming, representation, promotion and communication role within the forestry and natural resource communities regionally and nationally.

The following are the current institutions served by the Southern Regional Extension Forester:

Auburn University - Alabama Cooperative Extension System - <http://www.sfw.s.auburn.edu/extension/>
University of Arkansas - Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service - <http://www.arnatural.org/>
University of Florida - Florida Cooperative Extension Service - <http://www.sfr.c.ufl.edu/Extension/ExtInfo.html>
The University of Georgia - Georgia Cooperative Extension Service - <http://www.forestry.uga.edu/>
University of Kentucky - Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service - <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forestry/extension/>
Louisiana State University - Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service - <http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/>
Mississippi State University - Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service - <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/cfr/html/extension.htm>
North Carolina State University - North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service - <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/>
Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service - <http://agweb.okstate.edu/fwa/>
Clemson University - Clemson Cooperative Extension Service - <http://www.clemson.edu/extfor/>
The University of Tennessee - University of Tennessee Extension - <http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/extension/extension.htm>
Texas A&M University - Texas Cooperative Extension - <http://extensionforestry.tamu.edu/>
Virginia Tech - Virginia Cooperative Extension - <http://www.ext.vt.edu/>
USDA Forest Service - Southern Region State and Private Forestry - <http://www.fs.fed.us/>

MEET THE SREF TEAM

Over the years, SREF has expanded to include a diverse group of hard working individuals who assist the Southern Regional Extension Forester in executing his duties.

WILLIAM G. HUBBARD *Southern Regional Extension Forester*
whubbard@uga.edu



Bill has served as the Southern Regional Extension Forester since 1993. His position serves to facilitate regional education, extension, and technology transfer programs among thirteen southern land-grant universities, the USDA Forest Service, state forestry agencies, and others within the southern forestry community. Bill received his forestry training at the University of Florida. Before becoming Southern Regional Extension Forester, Bill taught forest management and economics at the University of Florida for five years while also managing the Florida Forest Stewardship and Urban Forestry Extension programs at UF.

Information Technology Projects Manager
bryan@sref.info

BRYAN JORDIN

Bryan has worked with the SREF office since 1999. He became the Director of Information Technology Projects in 2004. He provides oversight and management of all technology related efforts. Bryan is co-located with the USDA Forest Service Region 8 offices in Atlanta, GA. After graduating from the University of Georgia with a degree in Forest Resource Management, he took a position directing the development of several information technology projects for the USDA Forest Service and Extension throughout the southern United States. Prior to joining the SREF team, Bryan co-owned and operated a web design and development company, World Impressions Inc. Specializing in meeting the needs of the legal community; World Impressions grew to have an international clientele base.



ALLYSON LAWRENCE

Educational Program Specialist
alawrence@forestry.uga.edu

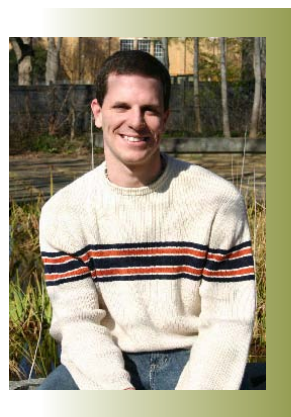


Allyson began working with the SREF office in June of 2002. She manages several projects and provides content for many of the SREF Internet sites. In addition, Allyson also manages SREF grants and contracts. Allyson graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a Bachelors of Science in Forestry in 1997. She began her forestry career working for a private forestry consultant before moving into a position with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. While with there, she worked as an Inventory Forestry for the Southern Annual Forest Inventor System (SAFIS) inventorying FIA plots. In 2000, Allyson progressed to the position of Parish Forester where she supervised state forestry operations in Caddo Parish, LA.

Web Systems Developer
mhowell@sref.info

MATTHEW HOWELL

Matt joined the SREF staff at the beginning of 2004 after completing a Bachelors of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Georgia. Matt leads the development of several technology projects including Urban Forestry South Expo and Tropical Forestry.net as well as assisting in the development of many others. His coursework involved numerous projects and studies that have made him a valuable asset to SREF.



TODD ELSBERND

Web Systems Developer
telsbernd@sref.info



Todd became a member of the SREF staff during the spring of 2004. Todd assists with the development and deployment of many SREF technology projects, but focuses most of his attention towards the Forest Encyclopedia Network. Todd earned a Bachelors of Science degree in Computer Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2001 during which he participated in cooperative studies with the Georgia Tech Research Institute. Before joining the SREF staff, Todd was the Technical Services Manager for CompUSA in Atlanta, GA.

ELIZABETH JAHN

Graphic Designer
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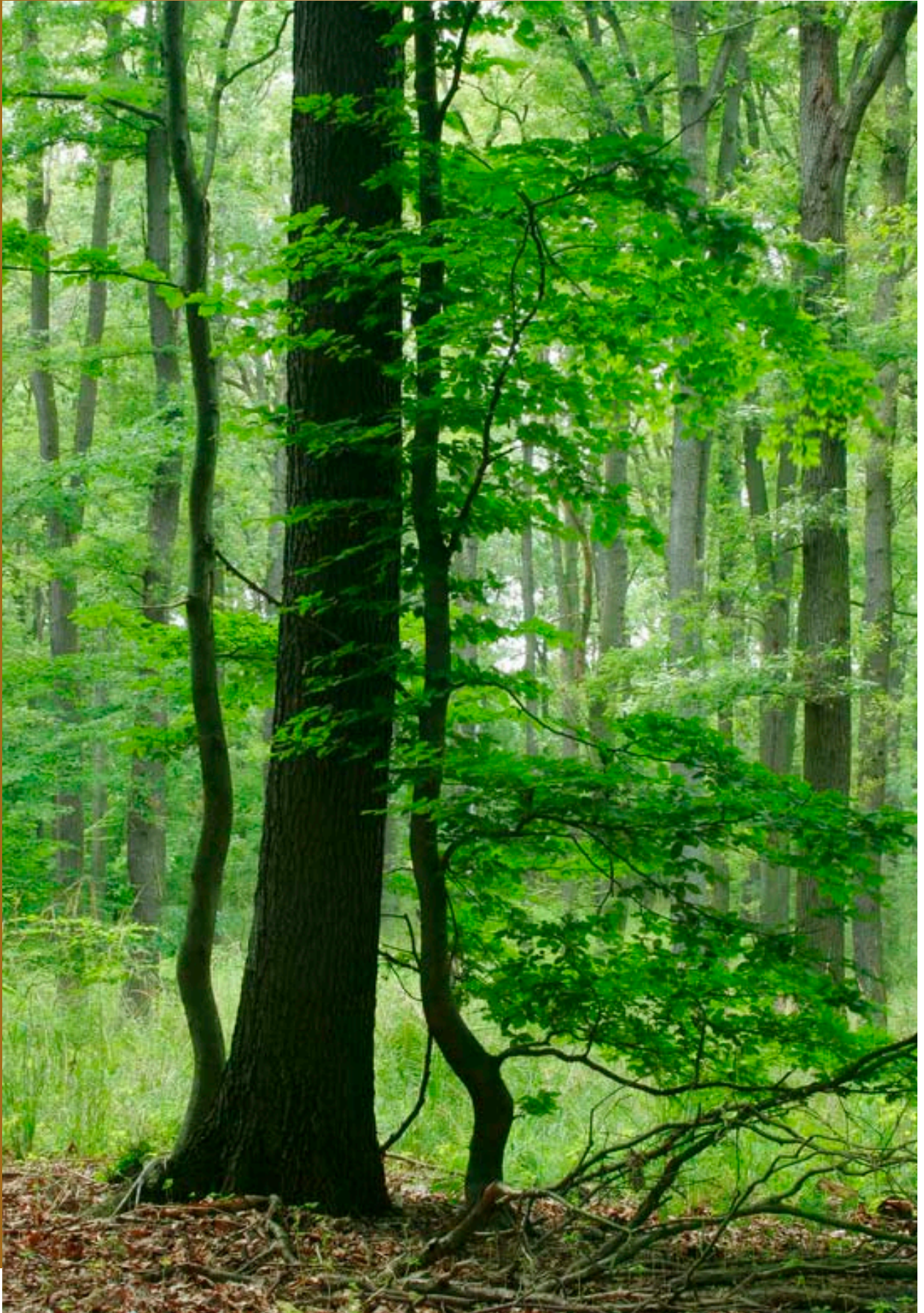
Liz joined the SREF staff in May 2005 as a designer. Liz provides graphic design services to SREF to support multiple projects. She is currently pursuing her graphic design degree at the University of Georgia, hoping to graduate in 2006.

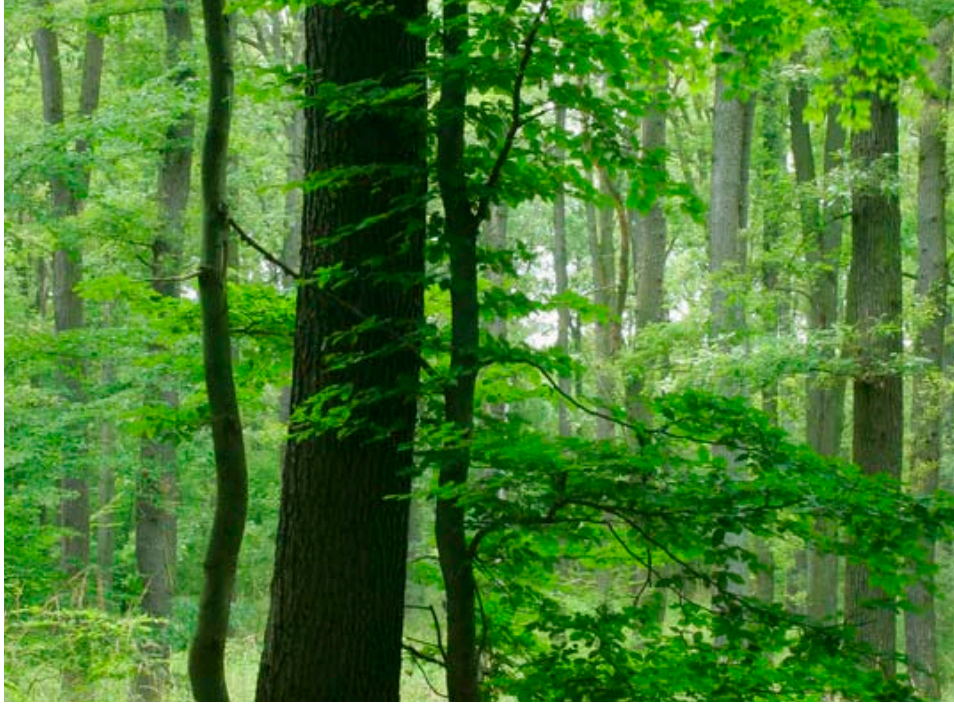
Student Assistant aeoreo@uga.edu

AMY ELLER

Amy has served as a student assistant for numerous SREF projects for over two years. Amy provides scanning services to electronically archive recent and relevant publications for many SREF projects. She is currently studying Spanish and Photography and expects to graduate from the University of Georgia in 2006.







PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

Programs and initiatives with a regional scope are imperative to the success of the Southern Regional Extension Forestry program. These include multi-state and regional projects that are coordinated by individuals, states or agencies that involve the Southern Regional Extension Forestry office in one way or another. In 2005 we continued to build upon several strong programs started in previous years while also expanding this base with new innovative initiatives.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Regional Biomass Program

The Southern Regional Extension Forestry Office coordinated a number of activities relating to a federally funded grant designed to provide training materials for the forestry community in the area of biomass resources. Key partners in this grant include the Southern Forest Research Partnership, Texas A&M University, University of Georgia and the USDA Forest Service. In particular, the SREF office assisted with the development of online needs assessments, conference planning and production and coordination of Extension involvement in the product design phase. The SREF coordinated three events in 2005 designed to gather input from these states as to the products and programs that will be useful. These state level Extension forestry units are key partners along with state forestry agencies. Outreach agencies will be heavily utilized in 2006 and beyond with any training and education events that occur as part of the project. Partners will use materials developed online at <http://www.forestencyclopedia.net>.



In addition, the SREF office is a partner with another regional biomass training grant based at the Southern Center for Wildland-Urban Interface Research and Information in Gainesville, Florida. The SREF will assist University of Florida and USDA Forest Service personnel with the outreach phase of this project, scheduled for 2006 and 2007. More information on this project can be found at http://www.interfacesouth.org/products/Technical%20Summary_biomass%20project.pdf.

Master Wildlifer

The Master Wildlifer program was a 7-week course involving wildlife Extension specialists, wildlife agency experts and others with expertise in managing our wildlife resource. Several states participated in the event which was held in February and March of 2005. In addition, tapes, notebooks and the textbook are available for purchase and/or download off of <http://www.sref.info>.



The Southern Regional Extension Forester co-coordinated this event with Dr. George Kessler, and Dr. Greg Yarrow with Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina. More information is available at <http://www.masterwildlifer.net>.

Master Tree Farmer Level II

Master Tree Farmer Level II planning commenced in 2005 with several states planning to participate in 2006. The USDA Forest Service again provided base funding as did the American Tree Farm System, BASF and the South Carolina Tree Farm Committee. The program will take place in February and March of 2006. As in the past, the SREF office assisted professionals at Clemson University with the coordination of this award winning program. For more information visit the <http://www.mastertreefarmer.net> website.



Southern Forestry GIS Conference

The Southern Regional Extension Forester along with professionals from the southern forestry GIS community coordinated the original Southern Forestry GIS conference in the mid 1990's. SREF is again assisting with the fifth installment of this conference. Specifically, the SREF assists with the development of the website <http://www.soforgis.net>, marketing the program and assistance with other aspects of program development.



Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Accountability Project

RREA serves as a federal source of funds designed to enhance state level natural resource programming and delivery. RREA has been authorized at between 15 and 30 million dollars for several years. It has been appropriated however at between 3 and 4 million since the Act was passed in the late 1970's. To move RREA closer to its authorized level, the Extension System initiated a strategic planning initiative in 2003-2004. Following the development of a strategic plan, a core Extension System team was assembled to utilize the Logic Model to develop criteria and indicators for

components of the strategic plan. The SREF serves on this accountability team. Documents relating to this effort should be available for use sometime in 2006.

In addition, the SREF office also provides infrastructure oversight to the federal RREA website at

<http://www.rreaprograms.net>.

This site houses valuable information concerning the Act, past accomplishments and current projects.



ENHANCED DELIVERY, COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Council

The Regional Extension Forester represents Cooperative Extension as a member of the Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Council. The Council, which is composed of members from state forest agencies, the USDA Forest Service, academia, Cooperative Extension, and non-government organizations, supports the leadership of the Southern Group of State Foresters by identifying and addressing wildland-urban interface issues. The Council also serves as the official advisory group of the Southern Center for Wildland-Urban Interface Research and Information in Gainesville, Florida by guiding technology transfer activities and identifying research needs. The SREF is assisting with the development of train-the-trainer curriculum materials for state forestry and Extension use.



Urban Forestry Cost-Benefit Literature Review

The Southern Regional Extension Forestry office provided administrative oversight to the development of a literature review relating to published information on costs and benefits of urban trees, forests and natural areas. Ms. Allyson Lawrence, Educational Program Specialist and Administrative Assistant with the SREF office reviewed hundreds of sources of information and provided an Access® database of the materials to the USDA Forest Service for distribution and listing on <http://www.urbanforestrysouth.org>.

Regional Publication Series

The Southern Regional Extension Forest Resources Publication Series is a peer-reviewed online publication system of the Cooperative Extension Service Southern Region. The series seeks to expand the distribution of state-level Extension publications and encourages the development of new, regionally authored Extension and technology transfer publications that address regional issues and audiences. The series will be housed online at <http://www.sref.info> in a print-on-demand format and hold a regional numbering system along with a regional logo. Materials are submitted in an electronic format and are subject to a peer review process that involves a primary topic associate editor and two independent reviewers. More detailed information on the series is available at <http://www.sref.info/regionalpublications>.

Several publications were peer reviewed and published online at www.sref.info, including:

Londo, A.J. and S.G. Dicke. SREF-FM-001. Measuring Survival and Planting Quality in New Pine Plantations. 2006.

Londo, A.J., J.D. Kushla and R.C. Carter. SREF-FM-002. Soil pH and Tree Species Suitability in the South. 2006.

Taylor, E.L., A.G. Holley and M. Blazier. New Pine Planting Strategies for the Western Gulf States. 2006.

In addition, two more publications are currently in the review stage and include one on the use of treated wood in construction following natural disasters and the history and use of pesticides.

Video to DVD project

Over the years the SREF office has collected hundreds of VHS videos from around the U.S., many of which were produced by Extension programs for educational purposes. In 2005, the SREF staff completed the task of digitizing and cataloging all of the VHS videos in their library that commenced the previous year. Since the SREF office frequently receives additions to their library, this project will continue indefinitely.

Regional Extension Forester Awards

Each year the Regional Extension Forester solicits nominations from around the region for consideration for a Southern Forest Resources Specialist Award. In 2005 close to fifty applications were received. The nominations will be judged by the Southern Extension Forest Resource coordinators at their annual meeting. Results will be shared with the forestry community and posted online at <http://www.sref.info>.

SREF.info Website and Newsletter

The Regional Extension Forester communicates timely information related to forestry in the South as well as nationally through the regional Extension website, www.sref.info. The site is home to thousands of news articles, citations, events, and personnel announcements that can be accessed with just the click of a mouse. Registered users of the site can receive an electronic newsletter distributed the first week of month that summarizes the news from around the region. Be sure to bookmark www.sref.info for all of

your forestry information needs.





PRODUCTS & TECHNOLOGY

During 2005, SREF continued to build upon existing relationships and developed new opportunities to create several traditional and non-traditional products to serve a multitude of educational and communication needs at the regional, national and global level. The style and approach of these products vary widely from published articles, fact sheets, and brochures to complex Internet applications.

2005 PUBLICATIONS

Jackson, B., B. Hubbard, M. Habecker, M. Kroenke, S. Traaholt, V.S. Brown., (2004). Members Evaluate their Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP). Journal of Extension December 2004. 42(6).

Kennard, D.K., Rauscher, H.M., Flebbe, P.A., Schmoltdt, D.L., Hubbard, W.G., Jordin, B., Milnor, W. H. (2005). Using Hyperdocuments to manage scientific knowledge: the prototype Encyclopedia of Southern Appalachian Forest Ecosystems. Forest Ecology and Management 207(1-2): 201-213.

Hubbard, W.G. Forests as an Investment (working title). Accepted for publication in Tree Farmer Magazine, Spring 2006)

Hubbard, W.G. Developing a Forest Management Plan. In Woodland Management Handbook of the Forest Landowner's Association (Chapter 2). Release date expected Spring 2006.

Hubbard, W.G. Financial Incentives for Stand Establishment. In Woodland Management Handbook of the Forest Landowner's Association (Chapter 8). Release date expected Spring 2006.

INTERNET APPLICATIONS

International Institute of Tropical Forestry

<http://www.tropicalforestry.net>

The International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF) site, a collaborative effort between the USDA Forest Service unit and SREF, aims for the dissemination of the knowledge and resources developed by IITF critical to sustaining tropical ecosystems beneficial for humankind worldwide. In 2005, SREF worked closely with key members of IITF to redesign and enhance their old site and the site progressed through the design, development, and testing stages. Presently

IITF's scientists are populating the website with their extensive tropical forestry material. Some features include:

- A database of tropical forestry projects, products and publications.
- A directory of tropical forestry scientists, collaborators and staff.
- An immense International Programs photo gallery.
- A collection of tropical forestry news, events, links and job opportunities.

Future enhancements have already been planned that will only increase the usefulness and accessibility for larger audiences.



Urban Forestry South Expo

<http://www.urbanforestrysouth.org>

In 2005, Urban Forestry South Expo (UFS), the central database of knowledge and information in the urban forestry arena, was continually updated with new urban forestry related materials geared towards state coordinators, urban forestry students, city planners, and others involved in the urban forestry and development. Additional enhancements were added to improve the user experience. Some of these enhancements include:

- A repository of urban forestry presentations given at past events.
- A Southern Cooperative Councils section used by members to store their library, minutes and contact information.



Association of Natural Resource Extension

Professionals <http://www.anrep.org>

In 2005, many enhancements to the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP) site were made to improve the creation and modification of new materials. These enhancements, even though they are not visible to the majority of users, are pertinent because they simplify the process of adding new content, which maximizes the time available to add new information. During 2006, ANREP will be undergoing a complete overhaul, which will include a graphical redesign and a shift to a new backend. These efforts will increase the efficacy of ANREP's service to extension professionals.

Forestry BMPs

<http://www.forestrybmp.org>

Sponsored by the Warnell School of Forest Resources (Dr. Ben Jackson) at UGA, USDA Forest Service and National Council of Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI), the site focuses on issues of water quality and best management practices on a state and territorial level. During 2005, SREF continued to populate the site with information on current news, events, legislation, permits, BMP manuals, audits, contacts and organizations for the state of their choice for members of the logging, forestry, environmental, conservation and other communities.

Forest Encyclopedia Network

<http://www.forestencyclopedia.net>

The Forest Encyclopedia Network (FEN), sponsored by the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station and SREF, is a knowledge management system composed of multiple encyclopedias. FEN's audience is primarily natural resource professionals, fellow scientists, landowners, students and others interested in management and scientific aspects of our Southern forests.

2005 was a very busy year for FEN. Three new encyclopedias; Southern Bioenergy Resources, Forest Environmental Threats, and the Southern Pine Beetle encyclopedias were added to the network. Significant contributions were made to the Southern Bioenergy Resources encyclopedia throughout 2005 and authoring is expected to finish in mid 2006. The Forest Environmental Threats and Southern Pine Beetle encyclopedias will undergo authoring in 2006. With the additions above, FEN currently contains the following six encyclopedias:

- Encyclopedia of Southern Appalachian Forest Ecosystems
- Encyclopedia of Southern Fire Science
- Encyclopedia of Southern Forest Science
- Encyclopedia of Southern Bioenergy Resources
- Encyclopedia of Forest Environmental Threats
- Encyclopedia of the Southern Pine Beetle



In 2005, the development of the new version of FEN 3.0, also progressed to the final stages and will be completed in 2006. Version 3.0 provides many improvements over the current version such as a redesigned internal structure that will allow information to be shared between encyclopedias without duplication. In addition, a dynamic help system, an improved rich content creation editor, and a full peer-reviewed workflow system are planned.

Forestry Index

<http://www.forestryindex.net>

The forestryindex.net site, a topic-arranged regional forestry website for the South, has been continually updated with new information and publications. The Southern Group of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service, as well as other natural resource service providers, support and promote use of this site to their clientele.

Reforestation, Nurseries and Genetics Resources (RNGR) <http://www.rngr.net>

The Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetics Resources (RNGR) web site supplies professionals who grow forest and conservation seedlings with the very latest technical information. RNGR is developed collaboratively with the USDA Forest Service RNGR National Team.

In 2005, several publications were converted from print into electronic format. The following activities are representative of some of the work on the RNGR site:

- Archived ten years of National Nursery Proceedings
- Converted and archived the Thin Green Line symposium proceedings that focused on State-of-the-Art in Reforestation.



Forest Landowners Association <http://www.forestlandowners.com>

In 2005 SREF partnered with the Forest Landowners Association to develop a new web site that creates an online hub for forest landowners across the nation.

The new portal, forestlandowners.com, provides timely news, events, and articles that are relevant to current issues and needs. Forest landowners will enjoy many benefits from having a website that is dedicated to filling their information needs. The popular 'Forest Landowner Magazine' is currently being archived electronically and will be available to members through this new site. Based upon the Plone content management system, this site is administered by the staff and volunteers of the association. The SREF will continue to work with Forest Landowners Association in 2006 in order to refine and enhance the new website.



Forest Productivity Website

<http://www.forestproductivity.net>

Partnering with the University of Georgia, the Potash & Phosphate Institute, and The Foundation for Agronomic Research, SREF released forestproductivity.net in 2005. The purpose of the site is to provide site visitors and forestland managers with the most current, unbiased, science-based, forest productivity information available in support of best management decisions on forestlands. With applied research articles, how-to's, and technology updates, you can find information on subject areas such as site preparation, genetics, planting, fertilization, herbicides, and economics as they relate to forest productivity. A key objective of the website is that natural resource managers will be enabled and equipped to make better, cost-effective forest management decisions to optimize forest productivity. For more information about this site or if you would like to contribute an article, please contact us at contact@sref.info.



University of Georgia Biorefining and Carbon Cycling Program <http://www.biorefinery.sref.info>

SREF was honored when asked to contribute to the University of Georgia's new initiative to further the research and application of biorefining in the state of Georgia by sponsoring and developing the new Center for Biorefining and Carbon Cycling Program's website. The site will serve as a central repository for research and program information for the center. Faculty, staff, and partners involved with the centers mission will be able to collaborate online like never before by entering and organizing data, publications, and other resources via the Internet. The site was launched in the fall of 2005 and is expected to continually evolve in the coming years to better serve the growing center.

Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources <http://www.forestry.uga.edu>

During 2005, SREF developed a module to link a pre-existing database of Faculty Activity reports created by UGA faculty members to the UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources website. This module allowed a plethora of publications and activities to be searchable directly from the site.



The Container Tree Nursery Manual CD-Rom

The Container Tree Nursery Manual consists of a six volume set that details the development and operation of a containerized tree nursery. Originally published by the Government Printing Office as USDA Agricultural Handbook 674, this popular set has become hard to find yet still in strong demand. This series is revered as an authority for those that are managing or involved in the establishment of containerized tree nursery production. Working with the USDA Forest Service Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetics Team, the series was converted into E-Book format. The CD's are available through the Western Forestry and Conservation Association (503.226.4562) for a nominal cost of \$15.00.

National Forest and Conservation Nursery Meetings

SREF provided technical and logistical support for the Western Forestry and Conservation Nursery Association and Northeastern Forest Nursery Association Meetings held in Park City, UT July 19-21 and Springfield, MO, August 2-4 respectively. During these meetings SREF captured every speakers' presentation in digital format. All of these presentations were com-



combined into a nine disc DVD set. For a copy of the DVD, contact the SREF office at info@sref.info.





ACTIVITIES & INVOLVEMENTS

The Southern Regional Extension Forester and support staff took the opportunity to make presentations and to facilitate activities in 2005 that communicate the efforts of Cooperative Extension and partnering organizations and to improve regional programming in the South.

PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

Hubbard, W.G. 2005. "Recovering from the Impacts of Recent Hurricanes on the Urban Forest." Presentation given to University of Florida faculty. Gainesville, FL.

Hubbard, W.G. 2005. "Regional Update," Ark-La-Tex Forestry Symposium. Shreveport, LA.

Hubbard, W.G. 2005. "Factors Affecting the Adoption of Practice by Participants of a Regional Forestry Shortcourse." Presentation given to University of Florida faculty. Gainesville, FL.

Hubbard, W.G. 2005. "New Education Technologies for Tree Farmers." Presentation given at the National Tree Farm Convention. Springfield, MA.

Hubbard, W.G. 2005. "Growth and Yield of Forest Strands." Presentation developed and presented to Forestry for Nonforester participants. Athens, GA.

Hubbard, W.G. 2005. "History and Importance of Forestry in the South." Presentation developed and presented to Forestry for Nonforester participants. Athens, GA.

Hubbard, W.G. 2005. "Current Issues in Southern Forestry." Presentation developed and presented to Forestry for Nonforester participants. Athens, GA.

Hubbard, W.G. 2005. "Professional Ethics in Forestry." Presentation given to Georgia Registered Foresters.

Hubbard, W.G. 2005. "Policy and Management in the Urban Forest." Presentation given to Louisiana Urban Forestry Professionals. Louisiana Tech Campus, Ruston, LA.

Hubbard, W.G. 2005. "The Forest Encyclopedia Network: <http://www.forestencyclopedia.net>." Presentation to the FEN Advisory Council. Athens, GA.

Hubbard, W.G. 2005. Impacts of the Master Tree Farmer/Master Wildlifer Programs. Poster for the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting. Charlotte, NC.

Hubbard, W.G. 2005. Biomass Training Initiative for the Southern Forestry Community. Poster for the 11th European Bioenergy Conference. Paris, France.

Hubbard, W.G., C. Fowler. 2005. Southern Fire Information Needs. Poster for the IUFRO meeting. Brisbane, Australia.

Howell, M.R, Jordin J.B. 2005. Internet Planning Workshop for the International Institute of Tropical Forestry. San Juan, PR.

Lawrence, A.L. 2005. The Southern Fire Portal. Poster for Fire in Eastern Hardwood Forests Conference. Columbus, OH.

2005 Hurricane Support

The Southern Regional Extension Forester provided services to aid in the coordination response efforts in wake of the 2005 Hurricane season and their detrimental impact on southern forests. Bryan Jordin was detailed to report directly to Tom Darden, USDA Forest Service Region 8 Cooperative Forestry Director, beginning October 5, 2005 for a period of three months. During his three month detail, Bryan provided support to State Foresters, State Forest Associations, and Extension personnel in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. His duties included damage assessment dissemination, policy and legislative analysis, congressional supplemental development, forest community coordination, interagency briefings, and staff updates.



http://www.passportintime.com/16-2/images/DeSeo0Trees1_full.JPG





THE ROAD AHEAD

The interest in web based knowledge management application continues to increase. Several projects are planned including expansion of the Forestry Encyclopedia Network (FEN) site to include a Forest Threats and Pine Beetle Encyclopedia. The new FEN 3.0 site will be unveiled as well which will contain a number of user-friendly enhancements. In addition, the Urban Forestry South Expo site, the IITF site and several others will be released to the general public through a more aggressive marketing plan.

The Southern Regional Extension Forestry office plans to continue to provide service to state Extension services and the USDA Forest Service. Several exciting activities are scheduled to allow us the opportunity to accomplish this. Perhaps of greatest interest is the 2006 Southern Regional Conference on Technology Transfer and Extension in Natural Resources.

This conference will allow state and county level Extension professionals the opportunity to gather for information sharing, program planning and camaraderie. In addition, it is a great opportunity to begin working more closely with USDA Forest Service technology transfer specialists to get the word out about scientific based forest management. The joint interests of Extension and Forest Service will be well served by this conference, scheduled for August in Hot Springs.

Finally, the Southern Regional Extension Forester will continue to collaborate on several important regional and national initiatives. From the American Tree Farm System educational initiative to Southern Urban-Wildland Interface projects, the SREF will engage the resources of the Southern Land-Grant University System to ensure that education, information and technology from these institutions are considered as part of the solutions that ensure optimal management and stewardship of the Southern forest resource.