



2007 Annual Report

SOUTHERN REGIONAL
EXTENSION FORESTRY

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A Letter from the Southern Regional Extension Forester



front row: Sarah Ashton, Candee Golden, Amanda Adams, Elizabeth Jahn
back row: Allison Ginn, William G. Hubbard, Matthew Howell, Cole Sherer

Gratitude!

This one word sums it all up for me as I review the 2007 Annual Report. This last year was an amazing year for productivity by the Southern Regional Extension Forestry staff and partners. I am particularly grateful to have assisted in a small way with some of the projects listed on these pages. These include, but aren't limited to the excellent biomass training materials developed by Sarah Ashton and others, the outstanding websites produced by Matt Howell and his team, and the opportunity to be part of education,

Extension and technology transfer product development all over this region and country.

Some of you might have heard that I was on special assignment this summer with the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station. I was given several challenging tasks. These included working with the newly formed Western Wildlands Environmental Threats Center (WWETAC) to develop a short course relating to use of vegetation models under changing climate

scenarios. It also included reviewing the fire research products of PNW scientists with the objective of developing a stationwide science delivery and application plan for them. Needless to say, I felt extremely challenged by this assignment! While I am still working on various reports and the short course for the good folks in the PNW, it is good to be back in the South!

While I was on detail, things continued to move forward on a number of fronts as you will see on the following pages. Also, we've had some changes in staffing recently, including the addition of Darryl Outlaw as a web programmer and Camilla Geniatulina as our graphics design artist. We also want to extend our gratitude to web programmers Cole Sherer and Stephen Pavlik, who moved on to other positions.

In closing, I am grateful to be given the opportunity to work with the various partners of this project, the universities and Extension Services, the USDA Forest Service, the state forestry agencies and associations, and many others who make things happen in this great region!

A special thanks to Diana Cooley and Camilla Geniatulina for design of the 2007 Annual Report.

We here on staff want to extend best wishes for a productive 2008. If there is anything we can do to assist you with your education, technology transfer and outreach needs, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

Bill Hubbard

Bill Hubbard and the SREF Team



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 resources 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 University 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.aces.edu/>

University of Arkansas - Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service - <http://www.arnatural.org/>

University of Florida - Florida Cooperative Extension Service - <http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/ExtInfo.html>

The University of Georgia - Georgia Cooperative Extension Service - <http://www.warnell.uga.edu/>

University of Kentucky - Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service - <http://www.ca.uky.edu/forestryextension/>

Louisiana State University - Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service - <http://www.lsuagcenter.com/>

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/index.htm>

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://texasextension.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/>

Figure 1: Forestry Extension Websites by Institution

STATE UPDATES

The thirteen Southern 1862 Land-Grant Universities continued service to various clients through state-level Cooperative Extension and Agricultural Extension Services in 2007. 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. The number of professionals and full time equivalents (FTE's) continued to fluctuate throughout the South based on retirements, new hires and even new positions. Figures 2 through 4 summarize the Southern region personnel situation in 2007 from a "graphical perspective." Figure 2 summarizes the FTE's throughout the region by discipline (wildlife, wood products, environmental education, continuing education and forestry). Figure 3 summarizes these FTE's by state and discipline. Finally, Figure 4 summarizes these same FTE's by professional status (county agents, area agents, professional nonfaculty, and faculty positions). The following section provides a sampling of the work undertaken by states in 2007. For more information, please visit their websites, listed in Figure 1.



ALABAMA: In 2007, Alabama held a conference on Cogongrass, an invasive weed from Southeast Asia.



The purpose of the conference was to convey the latest research on restoring lands and managing, controlling and eradicating the grass. Proceedings can be found at <http://www.cogongrass.org/conference.htm>.

ARKANSAS: In 2007, over 400 clients attended 16 GPS and GIS classes and workshops developed



and delivered by Extension personnel. Additionally, the UA Cooperative Extension Service in partnership with researchers at the UA-Monticello School of Forest Resources, and the UA Division of Agriculture Public Issues Center, developed an applied research program to investigate stakeholder attitudes towards the use of prescribed fire. Stakeholders and participants in the research portion of the project were then invited to a collaborative learning forum to review the research findings, continue dialogue, and identify common ground. Finally, 9,000 primary school students were reached through the Responsible Environmental Stewardship—Quest program.

FLORIDA: In 2007, Florida Extension produced the *Wood to Energy Outreach Program's Biomass*



Ambassador Notebook with fact sheets, case studies, community economic profiles, slide presentations, an outreach manual, a resource list, and an appendix. Seventy leaders from the region were trained to coordinate outreach activities focusing on woody biomass contributions to energy production. 2008 plans are to 1) evaluate the materials and the program and 2) develop a high school module that converts this information to community investigations. Extension also designed and implemented a statewide Fire Education Initiative that produced radio ads between May and July that were played over 20,000 times with messages on the natural role of fire in Florida, prescribed burning, homeowner protection, firewise landscaping and safety in wildfires. A www.fireinflorida.com website was created as a supplementary resource. In collaboration with the Florida Division of Forestry and the US Forest Service, Extension organized and conducted the first i-Tree (Inventory of Tree Resources- environmental and economic) workshop in Florida. i-Tree is an urban and community forestry software program that utilizes tree inventory data to quantify the structure, function and value of a community's urban forest.


GEORGIA: In 2007, Georgia held its popular Master Naturalist Training which attracted over 60 participants.





In addition, public service faculty at the University worked with forest landowners, managers, utility and transportation workers, as well as the general public to combat Cogongrass, an invasive weed from Southeast Asia. A final highlight was the introduction of a Koi Health Management workshop. Veterinarians, hobbyists, retailers, and producers from throughout the U.S. learned about all aspects of caring for koi during a series of workshops conducted by the Warnell School public service faculty.




KENTUCKY: Over 4,416 woodland owners were assisted through woodland owner and forester programs in 2007 improving 118,261 acres. Caring for Creation was established this year with over 500 individuals obtaining scientific based information on global warming and its effects on wildlife and native ecosystems. Kentucky had over 500 visitors to their Environmental Education Center (EEC), and a new program in railway tie grading was initiated in 2007 with 17 businesses sending a total of 28 employees to this training resulting in 700,000 dollars in salary improvement.


 **LOUISIANA:** In 2007, The Louisiana Natural Resources Symposium, a national program designed to provide professional foresters and natural resource managers as well as landowners, policy-makers, and other stakeholders with the latest research-based information, was held. The theme of this year's symposium was *Human Impacts on Natural Resources—Causes, Quantification, and Implications*. It featured presentations from international experts covering issues related to forest fragmentation. Over 100 natural resources professionals, landowners, scientists and students were in attendance. Four regional forestry forums covered diverse topics such as estate planning and intergenerational transfer, using woody biomass for energy production, controlling invasive species, urbanization, and fragmentation. Over 600 landowners and other stakeholders participated in this year's forums. Most participants reported learning new information and gaining knowledge that they will implement on their land. Finally, six wildlife-related programs, including the Ark/La/Miss Wildlife Symposium, were attended by over 450 participants who gained knowledge on topics ranging from controlling nuisance wildlife to managing lands for mourning doves. Exit interviews and pre- and post-workshop tests revealed that most participants gained a significant amount of knowledge regarding wildlife management and conservation.


 **MISSISSIPPI:** In 2007, MS Extension held five forest landowner short courses. These short courses were on Forest Regeneration and Forest and Wildlife Management for Recreation and Profit and had 150 participants. Six workshops were conducted on pine plantation thinning and forest valuation for 120 participants. 19 other programs ranging from county forestry association meetings to youth activities were conducted statewide for 603 participants.


 **NORTH CAROLINA:** In 2007, NC State Extension produced four new publications: "Communities Thrive on Trees", "Construction and Tree Protection", "Zoning and Land Use Regulation of Forestry", and "An Introduction to Forest Certification." 200 tax assessors were trained in Forestry Present Use Taxation. Educational efforts related to integrated pest management and Christmas tree production have resulted in substantial decreases in insecticide and herbicide use on 22,248.9 acres of Christmas trees in Western North Carolina. The Fur, Fish, 'n Game Rendezvous celebrated

its 25th year in June 2007. And finally, North Carolina Project Learning Tree had another fantastic year training 735 educators in the PLT curricula at 46 workshops statewide.


OKLAHOMA: In 2007, OSU developed and launched its contribution to Rangelands West, an online  network that provides seamless access to information on rangeland management. Oklahoma Rangelands can be accessed at <http://www.okrangelandswest.okstate.edu/>. Also, OSU held the Bollenbach Wildlife Symposium – a two-day training on natural resource stewardship with more than 80 participants representing more than 100,000 acres in attendance. Extension specialists and agents also held a regional red cedar workshop as well as a regional (Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana) carbon credits conference.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Seven Master Naturalist courses were offered in 2007 with 76 graduates logging 385  volunteer service hours in 4 months. An online version of this program will be available soon. The Cogongrass Task Force led education about the invasive species for an early detection and eradication effort. Work continued with the Winyah Bay Focus Area Task Force, a coalition of public and private partners working to sustain the ecological integrity of the third largest watershed on the East Coast. Extension partnered with the American Forest Foundation to hold Forested Flyways Field Days with an emphasis on Conservation Forestry of uplands on the Coastal Plain of South Carolina. To date, four field days have been held. More than 270 family forest landowners owning 144,450+ acres attended these field days. A fifth field day is planned for May 2008. Natural Resources Enterprises workshop, a one-day workshop to assist private landowners in developing natural resource enterprises on their land, was also developed and presented in 2007. Finally, a “Quick Reference Guide to Wildlife Planting” was published in December 2007, and a new book, *Recreational Horse Trails in Rural and Wildland Areas: Design Construction and Maintenance* by Gene Wood was published in October 2007.

TENNESSEE: In 2007, 30 County Extension Agents at three locations received training on forestry at the  Wildland/Urban Interface. All participants indicated their awareness regarding WUI issues increased. Three regional forestry field days with over 230 participants in total were held at Tennessee State Forests addressing stand practices. Another highlight from Tennessee Extension is that 48 of 95 counties now have county forestry associations (CFA's) with over 2,400 landowner members. During 2007, 21 CFA education programs were delivered, educating over 855 landowners on various forestry related issues.

TEXAS: In 2007, Texas updated their two-year Natural Resource Leadership Course for county Extension  agents, training them in urban tree damage, prevention, and disaster recovery. Additionally in 2007, Texas Extension started developing a program known as CFE Group, which is designed to offer a variety of professional and state-required continuing education units through web-based courses.

CFEgroup.org will provide a variety of training categories ranging from forest pesticide recertification to timber tax. The goal of the program is to build professional quality, peer reviewed modules that will attract foresters and other renewable resource managers from across the South. Finally, Texas continued its work on the Sustainable Forestry for Bioenergy and Bio-based Products Initiative.

VIRGINIA: Virginia continued work on its highly successful Master Naturalist Program, SHARP  Logger, and Forest Landowner Education Program, and finally Virginia will be one of 13 states involved in forest bioenergy education in 2008. Also, the Extension program in College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech is happy to report they had numerous positions filled during 2007.

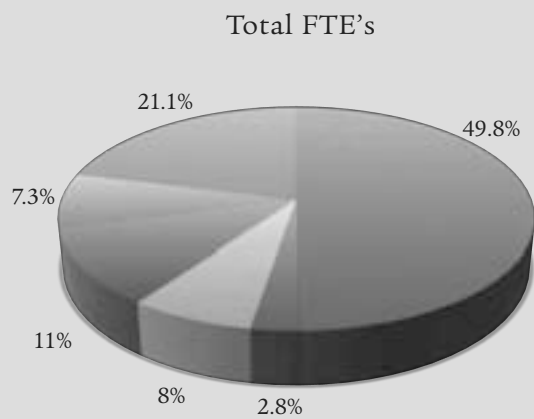


Figure 2 - Percentages of FTE's by discipline in the U.S. South.

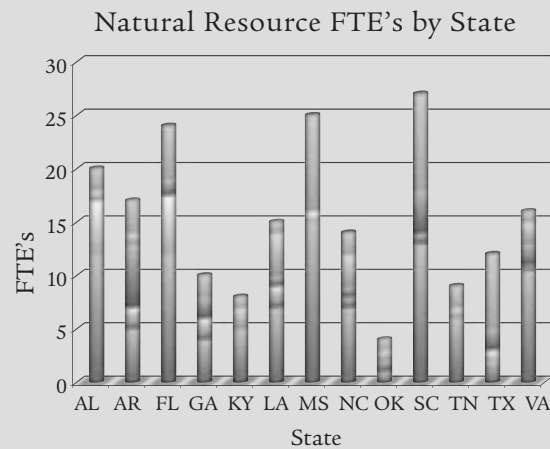


Figure 3 - Number of Extension natural resource professionals by general discipline in each state in the U.S. South.

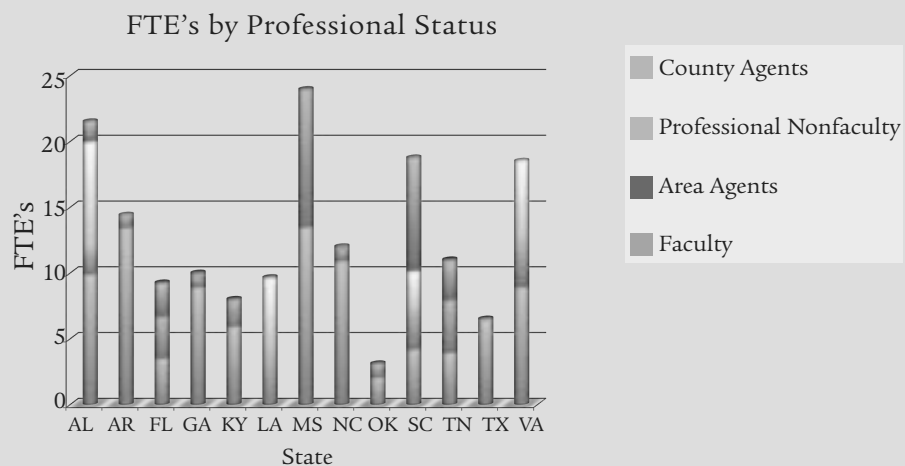
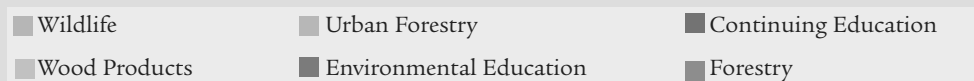


Figure 4 - Number of natural resources Extension faculty, staff, and agents by state in the U.S. South.

GRANTS & CONTRACTS

Day-to-day activities and special projects carried out by the Southern Regional Extension Forestry office are supported by a number of different sources including base funds provided by the Southern Regional Extension Directors (ASRED) and the USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry branch. In addition, grants and contracts from other sources are utilized for various projects that support the various mission areas of the Extension Service including regional programming, technology transfer, support to state Extension Services, general information dissemination, science application and other areas. The table provided summarizes current and ongoing grants and contracts held by the Southern Regional Extension Forestry office.

2007 CURRENT & ONGOING FUNDING		
Amount of \$ Received	Name of Project	Length of Project
\$ 62,702.00	Assessment of Opportunities and Techniques to Enhance Application of Products from PNW Funded Research	24 months
\$ 168,457.00	SREF Annual Operating Grant	12 months
\$ 50,000.00	RNGR Information Technology Project	12 months
\$ 24,000.00	Development & Operation of Urban Forestry Website	24 months
\$ 40,000.00	USDA Travel & Support	12 months
\$ 50,400.00	Maintaining and Enhancing the Forest Encyclopedia Network	12 months
Total New 2007 Funding: \$ 395,559.00		
Continuing Funding in 2008: \$ 519,101.00		
Total Funding since 2007: \$ 914,660.00		

Table 1: Current and Ongoing Funding

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

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 forest economics at the University of Florida for five years while also managing the Florida Forest Stewardship and Urban Forestry Extension programs at UF.



Sarah Ashton
Program Coordinator

Sarah joined the SREF staff during the summer of 2006 after completing a Masters of Science in Forestry at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Currently, Sarah is providing leadership in the development and implementation of a Southern Forest Research Partnership biomass training initiative. Sarah also assists the Southern Regional Extension Forester with various regional programs and projects including editing proceedings, participation in regional and national planning efforts and overseeing student work activities. Before joining SREF, Sarah completed a year with Americorps where she participated in Chesapeake Bay conservation and restoration work. Additionally, she spent a year managing volunteers with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Sarah loves forestry, but would some day love to diversify her skills by managing and owning a goat farm.



Matthew Howell
Information Technology Project Manager

Matt joined the SREF staff in 2004 after completing a Bachelors of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Georgia. Matt leads the development of several web-based technology projects including the Forest Encyclopedia Network or FEN, the Reforestation, Nurseries and Genetics Resources website, Urban Forestry South Expo and TropicalForestry.net as well as assists in the development of many others. In addition, he oversees the development of forestryvideos.net a valuable online resource that will ultimately contain online streamed videos and videos available for download. His coursework involved numerous projects and studies that make him a valuable asset to SREF.





Candee Golden
Administrative Specialist

Candee has been with the SREF staff since 2006 as an Administrative Specialist and worked for the University of Georgia for five years. Candee's varied background includes work in accounting and purchasing in the restaurant industry, co-owning a contracting business, and being a full-time mom.



Cole Sherer
Assistant Web Developer

Cole joined SREF in June 2006 and assisted Matt in developing websites for multiple projects. Upon finishing his BS in Computer Science in May 2007, he started working on his MS. In December 2007, Cole decided to leave SREF to work as a part-time graduate assistant for the University of Georgia's Department of Computer Science.

STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Liz Jahn
Graphic Designer

Liz joined the SREF staff in May 2005 as a graphic designer. She provided design services that support multiple projects. She graduated in December of 2006 with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. In May of 2007, Liz left SREF in an effort to diversify her portfolio. She started with the Arby's Foundation in Atlanta shortly there after.

Diana Cooley
Graphic Designer

Diana joined SREF in the summer of 2007 as SREF's main graphic designer. She provides design services that support a number of projects. She recently graduated with dual degrees in Graphic Design as well as Computer Science at the University of Georgia.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT WORKERS

David Koon, Allison Ginn, Shelly Mohammed, Tracey Sheffield, Amanda Adams

2007 Regional Review

In past reports, I have often used the word change. This change dealt primarily with agencies, budgets, personnel, issues and the like. In 2007, I witnessed discussion within the natural resources community that elevated the concept of change. This change is global climate change. While we will not get into the debate as to whether this change is human caused or not, the natural resource community in general is in agreement that we must address this change. From catastrophic weather events such as hurricanes, drought, heat, and ice, to increased outbreaks of insects, diseases, and invasive exotics; the impact on our forests and natural resources is at unprecedented highs.

While the forests and natural resources of the Southern United States remain as biologically diverse and productive as any other region in the world, their future is uncertain. Threatened for years by increased growth and human impact, they are now threatened by the uncertainties of climate change.

The Southern Regional Extension Forestry office continues to use its capacities and resources to meet the needs of a diversifying and growing audience under these changing conditions. Several projects started in previous

years are continuing, while others were initiated in 2007. These projects and initiatives have been undertaken with various objectives, based on the issue, need or opportunity at hand. These include hiring and replacing staff, developing new technology tools, assisting state Extension units with their mission and

objectives, networking with numerous partners and marketing/promoting our products. Several projects are highlighted here in the regional review section, while others are explained in detail in later sections.

Work continued on the biomass training and education initiative funded by the DOE and USDA. The SREF office worked on development of internet applications including the Encyclopedia of Southern Bioenergy, a volume of the Forest Encyclopedia Network (FEN), and the ForestBioenergy

educational web portal. In addition, the SREF office assisted the project leadership by introducing the land-grant and general forestry community to the project. In particular, this meant ensuring that state Extension foresters and others were familiar with the project, were involved in any review of materials, were advised on how the resources could be used once developed, and were invited



to the September Train-the-Trainers.

On the conference and professional development front, the SREF office led or provided assistance with several events in 2007. The SREF office helped promote the Woody Biomass Train-the-Trainers Session jointly conducted by the Sustainable Forestry for Bioenergy and Bio-based Products Initiative and Wood-to-Energy out of the University of Florida. Also in 2007, the SREF office took on the role of senior editor for the Southern Region Conference on Technology Transfer and Extension in Natural Resources conference proceedings, which will be published through the US Forest Service Southern Research Station.

On the Master Tree Farmer front, the SREF office assisted with a three week miniseries entitled “Preparing for the Next Generation.” This program utilized the services of several nationally prominent experts. It was delivered live via satellite and the Internet and was met with success. Here, for example, is a quote from a local site coordinator with the Tennessee Extension:

Hello, all, I would like to pass along some comments that someone told me about 2007 Master Tree Farmer. One family had two participants that lived 80 miles away, but not in the same towns. That’s a long way for folks to drive in Tennessee. They were not happy when the wheels came off the Internet simulcast, two weeks in a row. They didn’t come back for the third session. You all may recall that to cut through all

the difficulties with technical support, the folks at the Southern Regional Extension Forestry office sent DVD’s for later viewing. I sent the materials out to everyone, but I didn’t think that particular family would even open the package. Well, that father and son were at a Biofuels meeting last Monday, and they were all smiles, and very thankful. They said that the Master Tree Farmer program had really helped their family. It was just what they needed. Furthermore, they had an appointment (for yesterday) with an attorney to set up their framework for succession planning. I thought you might want to know that this quality in-depth program has really made a difference for some.— Ken Burrell, Tennessee site coordinator for the 2007 MTF program

Time and space limit discussion and description of everything we are involved in here at the regional office. For more information, please visit the Southern Regional Extension Forestry homepage at <http://www.sref.info>.

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 2007, 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

In 2007, the Southern Regional Extension Forestry office, part of a regional woody biomass training development team, finished the majority of its work on the development of a training manual. The Sustainable Forestry for Bioenergy and Bio-based Products Initiative is an innovative educational and technology transfer effort led by the Southern Forest Research Partnership, with key partners such as Southern Regional Extension Forestry, The University of Georgia, Texas A&M University, the University of Toronto, and the USDA Forest Service. This project received funding from the US Department of Energy and the US Department of Agriculture. Specifically, the SREF office provided authorship, editing and web-based leadership.



In September, a Train-the-Trainer workshop was jointly organized by SREF and other partners and held in Atlanta, Georgia. The

training drew over one hundred participants from various agencies and disciplines in thirteen states across the South. One purpose of the training was to encourage states to create woody biomass training and education teams. Approximately \$17,000 per state in funding was made available by the grant to implement education and outreach efforts. To assist in this effort, a number of products were developed by the regional biomass team:

- 1 An on-line Forest Encyclopedia Network encyclopedia volume titled the Encyclopedia of Southern Bioenergy;
- 2 A training curriculum notebook for natural resource and Extension professionals that incorporates PowerPoint® presentations;
- 3 Detailed trainer notes, fact sheets, additional resources, and a comprehensive glossary;
- 4 Several web-based distance-learning courses;
- 5 A web-based information portal containing bioenergy and biomass related links, images, news, and events.

More details on each of these products are outlined below:



Forest Encyclopedia Network

The Encyclopedia of Southern Bioenergy Resources (<http://www.forestencyclopedia.net/p/p2>) contains 229 pages of text, 280 images, and 416 citations of relevant biomass based information in seven modules. These modules are:

- Understanding bioenergy resources
- The southern bioenergy resource
- Forest management
- Harvesting
- Utilization
- Economics
- Environmental sustainability.

The information placed into the encyclopedia serves as the basis for most of the educational fact sheets, PowerPoint®, and web-based learning center materials. All seven modules have been peer reviewed and published.

Woody Biomass Training Notebook

The training notebook consists of 50 fact sheets organized into the same seven modules described above. Much of the content developed for the training curriculum notebook is modified encyclopedia text. In some cases, additional literature was researched and synthesized for the notebook. A variety of materials exist within the notebook, all meant to increase its flexibility and usefulness. A trainer can pull together the particular elements that will best suit their distinct training style and participant needs. Each of the seven modules includes the following materials: fact sheets, PowerPoint® presentations, an activity, evaluation resources, and an additional resources list.

Forest Bioenergy

Web Portal

The Forest Bioenergy portal is an online, interactive resource designed for information sharing among natural resource management and Extension professionals, as well as community planning and development professionals. It is a repository of information related to forest biomass product use designed so members can easily upload information when it becomes available. The gateway includes access to publications, presentations, links, events, videos, and images all available to the education community or others interested in woody biomass and bioenergy. The portal can be found at: <http://www.forestbioenergy.net>.

Web-based Learning Modules

One outcome of the bioenergy training initiative was the development of several web-based learning modules housed at The National Learning Center for Private Forest and Range Landowners. This Learning Center is a collaboration of USDA CSREES

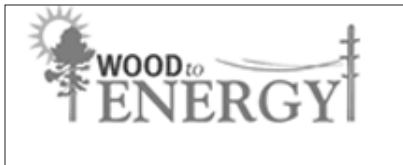


personnel, Extension forest and range faculty, land grant universities, and other stakeholders. The Learning Center currently hosts several interactive modules ranging from an introduction to woody biomass for bioenergy to the sustainability of the woody biomass resource. These are again the

same modules used in the Encyclopedia and training manual except for the combination of two of the modules. They can be accessed at <http://www.forestandrange.org/Biomass>.

WOOD TO ENERGY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Southern Regional Extension Forester was also a formal partner with the University of Florida and the USDA Forest Service's Southern Center for Wildland-Urban Interface Research and Information in Gainesville, Florida in their development of the Wood to Energy Outreach Project. In addition to providing review of many documents related to the Wood to Energy project, this project and the Sustainable Forestry for bioenergy project referenced above were released at



the same training in Atlanta. In addition,

several joint activities have been planned including an evaluation of program impact and state level trainings and material deployment. More information on this project and project materials can be found at <http://www.interfacesouth.org>.

MASTER TREE FARMER SPECIAL SERIES ON "PREPARING FOR THE NEXT OWNER"

The SREF was a regional co-coordinator with Clemson University on this distance learning program. This year's course was a three-week course designed to meet the needs

of those interested in planning their future. Landowners often invest decades of time and effort to manage their land and leave it and the forest in better condition than when they found it. There are many possibilities available such as intergenerational transfer, generation skipping, conservation easements, gifting, and establishing certain business entities. This workshop explored the options and steps landowners can take to plan for the future. The course was broadcasted live via satellite and streaming video from the studios of Clemson University to several hundred participants at sites in at least seven states including SC, FL, TN, MS, GA, VA and AL. In addition, VHS and DVD copies were made available for later use. The Southern Regional Extension Forester will work with Clemson University to develop streaming video of this course. They will be available online shortly at <http://www.sref.info> or via purchase from Clemson University at <http://www.mastertreefarmer.net>.

URBAN, COMMUNITY, & INTERFACE FORESTRY

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 nongovernment 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. In 2007, the USDA Forest Service received approval to hire a technology transfer specialist to assist with the implementation of the training and education tools. The SREF office will work closely with this specialist to ensure Extension is involved in the delivery of these valuable training materials. This information can be accessed at <http://www.interfacesouth.org>. In addition, the SREF office will begin to assist with the Center's website maintenance and design in 2008.

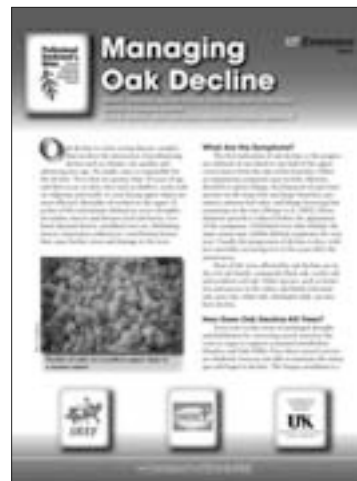
URBAN FORESTRY SOUTH

The Southern Regional Extension Forestry office, also, assists state level urban and community forestry specialists with both state agencies and state Extension Services. This includes coordination with regional urban and community forestry experts on regional needs assessments, website design, and development (<http://www.urbanforestrysouth.org>) and other efforts.

ENHANCED DELIVERY, COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

REGIONAL PUBLICATION SERIES

The Southern Regional Extension Forestry office continued the Southern Regional Extension Forest Resources Publication Series in 2007. This 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 is 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. In addition, all unit leaders are offered an opportunity to comment on its geographic applicability. More detailed information on the series is available at <http://www.sref.info/regionalpublications>.

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

- *Measuring Survival and Planting Quality in New Pine Plantations*
- *Soil pH and Tree Species Suitability in the South*
- *New Pine Planting Strategies for the Western Gulf States*
- *Managing Oak Decline*
- *Oak Shelterwood: A Technique to Improve Oak Regeneration*
- *Hardwood Plantations as an Investment*
- *Forest Management Strategies to Minimize the Impact of Gypsy Moth*
- *Two-Age System and Deferment Harvests*
- *Treatments for Improving Degraded Hardwood Stands*
- *Pesticide Development: A Brief Look at the History*
- *Use Preservative-Treated Wood & Integrated Pest Management When Rebuilding*
- *Carbon Credits for Landowners*

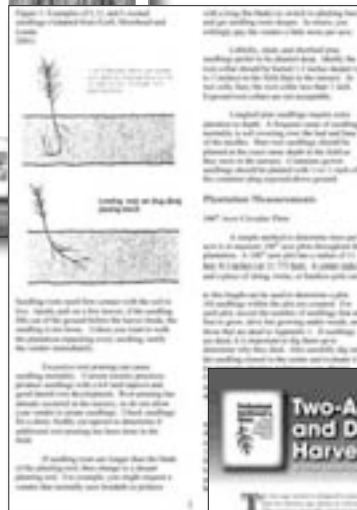
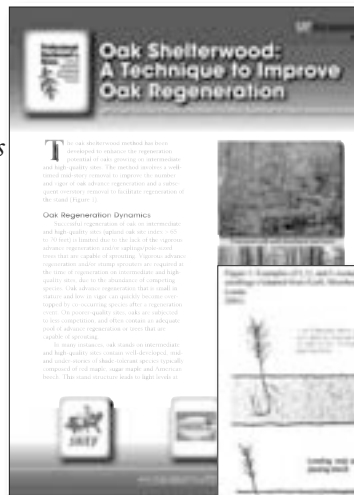
Other regional peer reviewed publications are in various stages of review and publication.

VIDEO DIGITIZING PROJECT

Over the years, the SREF office has collected hundreds of VHS and DVD videos from around the U.S., many of which were produced by Extension programs for educational

purposes. In 2006, the SREF staff completed the task of digitizing and cataloging all of the VHS videos in their library. Since the SREF office frequently receives additions to their library, this project will continue indefinitely. In 2007, we experimented with putting several of these videos online in various formats, sizes and resolutions. In 2008, the SREF office began uploading these videos to <http://www.forestryvideos.net>. Over 100 videos are now online in the following categories:

- Urban forestry and arboriculture
- Timber harvesting, logging and logger education
- General forest land management
- Wood products and preservation
- Environmental
- Wildlife
- Youth
- And others



Awards & Recognition

REGIONAL EXTENSION FORESTER AWARDS

Each year the Regional Extension Forester solicits nominations from around the region for consideration for the Southern Regional Extension Forestry Awards Program. This program, a precursor to the national ANREP awards program, follows a peer review by fellow Extension professionals. Results are shared with the forestry community and posted online at <http://www.sref.info> (see Table 2 below for the 2007 recipients).

Category	Nominee(s)	Project Title	State	Place
Computer Software or Website	Keith Douce, David Moorhead, Charles Barger, Joseph LaForest, Chris Evans	The Bugwood Network Bark and Wood Boring Beetles of the World www.barkbeetles.org	GA	Bronze
Computer Software or Website	Richard Vlosky	Louisiana Forest Products Industries	LA	Silver
Computer Software or Website	Robert Williamson & Ellen Smoak	The Water Guardian: Chopper Ride	NC	Gold
Computer Software or Website	Craig Harper & Elizabeth Babbit	Backyard Wildlife Management	TN	Bronze
Conference or Program Organization	Dennis Hazel	Biomass Regional Conference	NC	Silver
Conference or Program Organization	Todd Shupe	Louisiana Natural Resource Symposium	LA	Bronze
Conference or Program Organization	David Mercker	Healthy Hardwoods	TN	Gold
Extension Publication	Jeffrey Stringer, Billy Thomas, Renee Williams, Diana Olszowy	Kentucky Woodlands Magazine	KY	Gold
Extension Publication	Jonathan Kays, Jim Finley & Adam Downing	The Woods in Your Backyard - Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas Around Your Home	VA	Silver
Extension Publication	Craig Harper & Gary Bates	A Landowner's Guide to Native Warm-Season Grasses in the Mid-South	TN	Bronze
Journal Publication	Todd Shupe	Treated Wood Recycling	LA	Bronze
Journal Publication	Richard Vlosky	Web-Based Communities as a Tool for Extension and Outreach	LA	Silver

Table 2: Regional Extension Forester Awards



Category	Nominee(s)	Project Title	State	Place
Journal Publication	Neil Clark	Timber Liquidation with Less Aggravation	VA	Gold
Mass Media	David Mercker & Charles Denney	Pine Thinning with Whole-tree Harvester	TN	Gold
Mass Media	Andrew Londo, Timothy Traugott, John Kushla, Stephen Dicke, Glenn Hughes, Deborah Gaddis, Randall Rousseau, Walter DeLoach, Adam Bailey, Britton Hatcher, Timothy Allison	2006 Forestry Friday Radio Shows	MS	Gold
Multi-State or Regional Project	Michael Dunn, Glenn Hughes, Richard Vlosky	Certified Forests: Preparing Private Landowners for the Future	LA, MS	Silver
Multi-State or Regional Project	Joshua Idassi	Mobile Information Technology in Forestry: Targeting Underserved and Limited Resources in the South	TN	Gold
Project Administration	John Kushla	Training for the ISA Certified Arborist Examination	MS	Gold
Youth and Teacher Educational Program	Barry Fox	What Do You Know About Water?	VA	Silver
Youth and Teacher Educational Program	Martha Monroe & Jennifer Seitz	Urban Forests: A Supplement to Florida's Project Learning Tree	FL	Gold
Youth and Teacher Educational Program	Don Bales, Britton Hatcher, Butch Bailey, Trey DeLoach, Kisha Breland	Youth Conservation Camps	MS	Bronze



“During 2007, 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.”

INTERNET APPLICATIONS

One of the continuing success stories with the Southern Regional Extension Forestry office is the internet technology currently under development and management. Each of these websites meets the needs of a number of audiences. The following section highlights our current projects along with the collaborators or partners who are assisting with the effort, the audiences that the site is designed for, a general description of the website, accomplishments for 2007, plans for 2008, and any website statistics and impact data that might have been collected.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL EXTENSION FORESTRY

<http://www.sref.info>

The Regional Extension Forester communicates timely information related to forestry in the South as well as nationally through his regional website: <http://www.sref.info>. The site is home to thousands of news items, video links, podcast links, newsletters, citations, access to print publications 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 join and bookmark <http://www.sref.info> for all of your forestry information needs.”

URBAN FORESTRY SOUTH EXPO

<http://www.urbanforestrysouth.org>

ABOUT: The Urban Forestry South Expo is a central database of knowledge, information, and resources in the urban forestry arena. It uses a content management system and portal technology to organize a large amount of urban and community forestry related information.

Examples of what the site includes are:

- Urban forestry technology bulletins
- Tree ordinances
- News articles related to urban and community forestry
- Urban and community forestry links
- And a host of other materials.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: State urban forestry coordinators, urban forestry students, city planners, and others involved in urban forestry and development.

COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS: USDA Forest Service-Southern Research Station, SREF.

2007 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In 2007, the back-end or infrastructure behind the Urban Forestry South Expo (UFS) website was retooled in an effort to make the website faster and more efficient. Scientists are continually updating the site with urban forestry related materials.

2008 PLANS: There are many plans in the works for the UFS Expo website in 2008 including a native trees database, interactive phenology data and much more video content.

WEBSITE STATISTICS: Urban Forestry South continued to be a popular site with almost 185,000 page views in 2007, 80% coming from search engines.

ASSOCIATION OF NATURAL RESOURCE EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS

<http://www.anrep.org>

ABOUT: The Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP) is a national, professional association for Cooperative



Extension Service (CES) professionals working in environmental education, fisheries, forestry, wood sciences, range, recreation,

waste management, water, wildlife, and related disciplines. Members are active and retired CES employees at the county, area, state, or national level. ANREP strives to bring professionals together to discuss mutual natural resource issues, needs, and opportunities. The website provides members and nonmembers with news articles, event information, position announcements, a member directory, membership information, and association contact information.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Active and retired county, area, state, and national level cooperative Extension Service (CES) professionals working in environmental education, fisheries, forestry, wood sciences, range, recreation, waste management, water, wildlife, and related disciplines.

COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS: Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP), ANREP, SREF.

2007 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In 2006–2007, the ANREP website underwent a complete overhaul, including a redesign of the website interface, and backend adjustments that have increased the efficacy of ANREP's service to Extension professionals. In 2007, work began on the Sustainability Teaching Tools section, which will be a repository of tools designed with a focus on sustainable living. The website for the 2008 conference in Madison, Wisconsin was also created.



2008 PLANS: In 2008, new features will be developed as necessary and the Sustainability Teaching Tools section will be released for production use.

WEBSITE STATISTICS: In 2007, ANREP received almost 30,000 page views from 6,000 visits to the site.

FOREST ENCYCLOPEDIA NETWORK
<http://www.forestencyclopedia.net>

ABOUT: The Forest Encyclopedia Network provides natural resource professionals and the public the scientific knowledge and tools they need to achieve their objectives. The Network is designed to connect scientific results, conclusions, and impacts with management needs and issues. The ever-expanding scientific knowledge base of forest information is organized into an integrated system that can be easily accessed and used. 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.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Natural resource professionals, fellow scientists, landowners, students, and others interested in management and scientific aspects of our Southern forests.



COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS: USDA Forest Service-Southern Research Station

2007 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The new version of FEN 3.0 was completed. 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 have been created.

2008 PLANS: There are many big plans for FEN in 2008. Integration with other sites including Forestry Images and the National Agricultural Library citation database are in the works. These collaborative efforts will provide even better content and enrich the user experience. Two new encyclopedias will be released. The Forest Threats encyclopedia is currently in the final stages of review and will be available online soon. The Southern Pine Beetle encyclopedia will be available by the end of 2008.

WEBSITE STATISTICS: The transition to the new version of FEN has brought increased use and visibility. In 2007, over 40,000 users visited FEN and almost 125,000 pages were viewed. In 2008, these numbers are expected to be much higher due to much more effective search rankings and increased visibility on search engines.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL FORESTRY

<http://www.tropicalforestry.net>

ABOUT: The International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF) site aims for the dissemination of the knowledge and resources developed



by IITF critical to sustaining tropical ecosystems beneficial for humankind worldwide. Some features include:

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

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Researchers and scientists, students, and others interested in understanding, maintaining and restoring tropical forests and ecosystems

COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS: USDA Forest Service-International Institute of Tropical Forestry, SREF.

2007 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In 2007, SREF continued maintenance and development of www.tropicalforestry.net, which was redesigned in 2005.

2008 PLANS: IITF's scientists are populating the website with their extensive tropical forestry material. Future enhancements have already been planned to increase

the usefulness and accessibility for larger audiences.

WEBSITE STATISTICS: In 2007, the IITF website had 1,767 visitors from 87 different countries.

REFORESTATION, NURSERIES, AND GENETICS RESOURCES (RNGR)

<http://www.rngr.net>

ABOUT: The Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetics Resources (RNGR) website was developed by technical specialists of the Reforestation, Nurseries and Genetic



Resources program whose mission is to supply people who grow forest and conservation seedlings with the very latest technical

information. It was also developed to provide links to other organizations and individuals with similar interests. As you browse through the website, you should learn more about the art and science of raising forest and conservation plants. Site features include:

- Publications
- Forums
- Contacts
- Grant opportunities
- Information related to ongoing research projects
- 70 Years of National Nursery Proceedings Archives
- Thin Green Line symposium proceedings.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Professionals, students, scientists, nursery specialists, and teachers

COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS: USDA Forest Service
RNGR National Team, SREF.

2007 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: SREF continued scanning and uploading papers from the Northeastern Forestry Improvement Conference and the Southern Forestry Improvement Conference to the RNGR website.

2008 PLANS: New additions to RNGR in 2008 will include a recycling blog that will give nursery managers the ability to trade/swap unused nursery materials with others in the area. SREF will also continue to scan and archive current and past proceedings papers and make additional enhancements as required by the RNGR team.

WEBSITE STATISTICS: Almost 200,000 pages were viewed on the RNGR website during 2007. Visitors to the site came from 176 countries. In addition, over 30,000 PDF publications were downloaded.

EASTERN FOREST THREAT CENTER
<http://www.forestthreats.org>

ABOUT: The mission of the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center is to generate, integrate, and apply knowledge to predict, detect, and assess environmental threats to public and private forests of the East, and to deliver this knowledge to managers in ways that are timely, useful, and user friendly. The Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center website provides the latest research and expertise on forest threats. Site features include: data, interactive tools, project



information, news, events information and abiotic and biotic threat information.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Land managers, scientists, and landowners.

COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS: USDA Forest Service, SREF, National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center.

2007 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: SREF continued work related to design and functionality.

2008 PLANS: During 2008, SREF will continue to work with EFETAC to create new tools and features as necessary.

WEBSITE STATISTICS: Throughout 2007, the EFETAC site was viewed over 40,000 times.

FOREST LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.forestlandowners.com>

ABOUT: The mission of the Forest Landowner Association is to support responsible management of private forest property through advocacy, education, and information. The FLA website is an online hub for forest landowners across the nation. The portal provides timely news, events, and articles that are relevant to current issues and needs of forest landowners small and large.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Forest Landowners, natural resource professionals, students, and general public.

COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS: Forest Landowners Association, SREF.



2007 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In 2007, SREF continued to work with Forest Landowners Association in order to refine and enhance the website. FLA staff carries out day-to-day content management.

2008 PLANS: SREF will continue to work with FLA to provide them with online membership functionality and other features that will provide more features for FLA members.

WEBSITE STATISTICS: In 2007, the FLA website was visited by more than 11,000 unique users and over 50,000 pages were viewed.

FOREST PRODUCTIVITY WEBSITE
<http://www.forestproductivity.net>

ABOUT: Released in 2005, the Forest Productivity website was created to provide site visitors and forestland managers with the most



current, unbiased, science-based, forest productivity information available in support of best management decisions for 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.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Private non-industrial forest landowners (NIPFLs), forestry consultants, state and federal foresters, natural resource managers, Extension agents, and other interested persons.

COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS: The University of Georgia, the Potash & Phosphate Institute, the Foundation for Agronomic Research, SREF.

2007 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: SREF posted new articles to the Forest Productivity website, including the last two parts of the nine part series on Economics of Growing Slash and Loblolly Pine. In addition, SREF made enhancements and improvements to the general site.

2008 PLANS: SREF will continue to host and maintain the site and provide updates as they arrive.

WEBSITE STATISTICS: Over 16,000 pages were viewed on the site during 2007.

CARBON TRADING : A PRIMER FOR FOREST LANDOWNERS
<http://carbon.sref.info>

ABOUT: The Carbon Trading: A Primer for Forest Landowners website provides information regarding what is required by a landowner to trade carbon, possible costs, and potential income. It also provides information on where US states are in the process of developing markets. Site features include:



carbon trading information, a carbon calculator, maps, links, and contacts.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Forest landowners, natural resource professionals, carbon traders, scientists, and students.

COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS: National Commission on Science for Sustainable Forestry, Daniel B. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources-UGA, SREF.

2007 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: During 2007, SREF updated and maintained the carbon calculator data to ensure that carbon estimations are accurate.

2008 PLANS: SREF will continue to maintain the Carbon Trading website throughout 2008 and work with project managers to improve and enhance as necessary.

WEBSITE STATISTICS: Over 16,000 pages were viewed on the site during 2007.

FOREST BIOENERGY WEBSITE

<http://www.forestbioenergy.net>

ABOUT: The Forest Bioenergy website is one of several products resulting from the Southern Forest Research Partnership bioenergy training initiative. The site is a repository of information related to biomass product use designed such that members can easily upload and the public can easily download relevant biomass-related information. Site features include: biomass related news, links, events, images, publications, presentations, and a glossary.



INTENDED AUDIENCE: Natural resource management, Extension, and

community planning and development professionals and others interested in forest bioenergy.

COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS: Southern Forest Research Partnership, Daniel B. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources-UGA, Texas A&M University, The National Learning Center for Private Forest and Range Landowners, University of Tennessee and University of Toronto, SREF.

2007 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The site was formally launched in 2007. Each feature continues to be populated by web masters in the SREF office as well as the USDA.

2008 PLANS: SREF will continue to upload new information and add new features throughout.

WEBSITE STATISTICS: 20,000 pages were viewed in 2007. The most popular sections included the presentation section and the image gallery.

GEORGIA GROWS

<http://www.gagrows.com>

ABOUT: Georgia Grows is a new approach to the goal of planning and caring for Georgia forestland. Members exchange ideas on how



to manage this resource more effectively in Georgia. GROWS also recognizes those owners and managers who manage it best.

Together, Georgia landowners can touch future generations through managing forests wisely today. Site features include: news, events, relevant publications and links, and a photo gallery.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Individuals or organizations having an interest in Georgia's forests.

COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS: Georgia Forestry Commission, SREF, USDA Forest Service, Daniel B. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources-UGA, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, National Wild Turkey Federation, Quality Deer Management Association, Georgia Forestry Association, Georgia Land Conservation Program

2007 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In 2007, SREF created the GROWS website and released it in the 4th quarter.

2008 PLANS: SREF plans to provide more content, e.g. images and events, throughout 2008.

WEBSITE STATISTICS: The website was recently made available to the public. It received about 300 visits in its first three months of release.

CARING FOR DEER AND FORESTS
<http://www.deerandforests.org>

ABOUT: The Caring for Deer and Forests website was developed by a team of scientists and Extension educators with input from a broad-based advisory team, and funding from the USDA Forest Service Electronic Commons project and Northern Initiatives. The site is maintained by the University of Georgia, Penn State University, and US Forest



Service Research & Development Northern Station. The site's two main goals are: (1) to provide information and examples about

deer habitat, deer impact, and strategies to care for deer and forests together; and (2) to serve as a clearinghouse for resources about connections among people, deer, and forests. Site features include: introductory information on deer and forests, resources, case studies, relevant links, publications, videos, and contacts.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Landowners, hunters, media writers, WUI landowners, natural resource professionals.

COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS: USDA Forest Service, Penn State University, SREF.

2007 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Throughout 2007, SREF posted new articles about caring for deer and forests.

2008 PLANS: During 2008, SREF will continue to update the site with new publications related to deer and human interactions and impacts.

WEBSITE STATISTICS: During 2007, the website received almost 20,000 page views from users in 48 countries.



Summary of Website Statistics in 2007

Website Name	URL	Visits	Unique Visitors	Page Views
ANREP	http://www.anrep.org	6,022	3,728	30,695
Carbon Trading	http://www.carbon.sref.info	4,261	3,134	16,604
Caring for Deer and Forests	http://www.deerandforests.org	4,764	3,907	19,937
Forest Encyclopedia Network	http://www.forestencyclopedia.net	40,753	31,734	123,598
Forest Bioenergy	http://www.forestbioenergy.net	4,053	1,821	19,071
Forest Landowners Association	http://www.forestlandowners.com	15,489	11,546	52,611
Eastern Forest Environmental Threats Assessment Center	http://www.forestthreats.org	7,048	4,394	48,410
Georgia GROWS	http://www.gagrows.com	837	523	4,854
Georgia Urban Forest Council	http://www.gufc.org	7,956	6,348	29,840
International Institute of Tropical Forestry	http://www.tropicalforestry.net	1,767	1,195	8,366
RNGR	http://www.rngr.net	33,883	25,734	191,128
RREA Programs	http://www.rreaprograms.net	428	348	1,292
Southern Forest Research Partnership	http://www.sfrp-online.net	1,214	732	4,206
Southern Regional Extension Forestry	http://www.sref.info	39,957	30,863	101,699
Urban Forestry South Expo	http://www.urbanforestrysouth.org	68,137	58,149	184,311
Wildfire Programs	http://www.wildfireprograms.usda.gov	13,878	12,361	35,338
TOTAL		250,447	196,517	872,050

Table 3: Summary of SREF Website Statistics

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS, EXHIBITS & POSTERS DESIGNED

The SREF office developed or updated the following promotional materials in 2007:

- A marketing piece for the Forest Bioenergy website
- A Sustainable Forestry for Bioenergy and Bio-based Products Initiative Poster
- ANREP Promotional Poster
- Urban Forestry South Expo Brochure



Activities & Involvements

COMMITTEE & SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

The Southern Regional Extension Forester and staff participated in several committees, provided presentations at several meetings, and undertook a number of special assignments. These activities were important for several reasons, including representation of the Extension and the Land Grant University mission, promotion of the Extension and education as solutions to today's natural resource issues and summaries of the SREF programs, activities, and contributions in the natural resources arena. A short summary of some of the major committee accomplishments and special assignments follow.

Southern Alliance for the Utilization of the Biomass Resource (SAUBR) The SREF is a board member and regularly participates in board activities and decisions. This Alliance was formed to promote the use of woody biomass for energy and other products in the Southern United States. The Board undertook actions in 2007 to unite with the Southeast Agriculture and Forestry Energy Resources Alliance or SAFER. The Board plans this merger in 2008. The SREF office utilized the SAUBR membership to promote the biomass education and training materials of the SFRP and Wood to Energy programs.

Forest Encyclopedia Network (FEN) Advisory Board The SREF is co-chair of the FEN advisory board along with a representative of the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station. This board

provides oversight and guidance to this unique network of online encyclopedias. The board provides input into direction, marketing, promotion, and evaluation of the effectiveness of this multi-million dollar effort. The SREF works closely with the USDA Forest Service and other partners to improve upon this online resource.

Master Tree Farmer (MTF) Steering Committee The SREF is co-chair of this regional program designed to provide forestry and natural resources information to landowners via satellite and internet-based distance education. The Steering Committee provides oversight on program format, promotion, topics and funding among other duties. This group meets regularly via conference call to plan future events.

Southern Forestry Technology Transfer and Science Application Advisory Council The SREF is a member and co-signer of a Charter designed to bring the USDA Forest Service and the Extension Service closer together on technology transfer and science application. This group meets twice per year with the purpose of developing and implementing strategies to deliver science more effectively to various audiences.

Forest Landowners Association Magazine Editorial Board As a member of this committee the SREF provides input into the bimonthly magazine and suggests several topics and Extension authors for various articles. In addition, the SREF negotiated and has been paying for a substantially reduced annual subscription (\$6 per subscription vs.

\$40) for the Forest Landowner magazine to Extension natural resource specialists and forestry deans in the region. Several state Extension specialists have authored or co-authored articles for this magazine that reaches close to 10,000 subscribers.

Southern Forestry GIS (SoForGis)

Conference Planning Team The SREF provides assistance to this committee/effort by providing services of the SREF IT Team (via website production). The SREF also provides marketing/promotion and various other types of support for the conference including assisting with production of proceedings CDs.

Visualizing Future Landscapes Project

As a co-principal investigator for this project, the SREF provided input into Extension deliverables. This project is an RREA focus funds project designed to develop materials for use by county and state Extension professionals in the area of visualizing the impact of land use change. The project will involve development of an online portal, an atlas, a brochure, a final report, and a 4-page executive summary.

Biomass Incentives Program Committee

The SREF is a member of the steering committee providing oversight to a funded project investigating incentives for private landowners pertaining to biomass and bioenergy.

Southern Forest Research Partnership

(SFRP) The SREF is a member of the SFRP and works closely with their Executive Director to develop joint programs. One example is the current biomass training project. In addition, SREF staff made presentations to the SFRP Board of Directors in 2007. SREF staff also maintain the SFRP website.

USDA Forest Service Urban Forestry

National Technology Transfer Team The SREF office participated in this national technology transfer team effort in Evanston, IL. Staff will work closely with this team to develop and implement various strategic actions nationally.

The Association of Natural Resource

Extension Professionals (ANREP) Executive

Board The SREF participate s as a board member of ANREP. In addition, the IT staff of SREF provide website oversight and development duties.

The University of Georgia - Center for Urban

Agriculture Advisory Council

The SREF participates in Center planning activities and is a member of its Advisory Council.

Carbon Trading Team The SREF is part of a team that is charged with developing educational materials and websites on carbon trading.

Georgia ANREP The SREF assists the Georgia Chapter of ANREP with a variety of duties and responsibilities including maintenance of their website and annual conference planning.



University of Georgia Bioenergy Team The SREF is a member of a team that is working across department lines to investigate opportunities for bioenergy in Georgia and the South.

National 4-H Forestry Invitational Committee As a member of the committee, the SREF provides insight into administration and funding issues of the Invitational.

American Tree Farm System Education and Outreach Committee The SREF participates in this committee and provides assistance in program direction, grant reviews and other relevant activities.

Restoring America's Longleaf Initiative The SREF office has been asked to provide leadership for the education and outreach committee of this new initiative. Over 25 agencies are involved in this regional effort.

Web-based Learning Center Advisory Committee The SREF office is represented on this Committee. SREF staff is involved in various activities of the Center including reviewing grants, assisting with marketing efforts and overall input into Center direction.

University of Georgia Appeals Committee Bill Hubbard was asked to review denied promotions with a committee of Senior Public Service Associates.

PAPERS, REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

Gan, J., H.M. Rauscher, C.T. Smith, S. Ashton, L. Biles, D. Cassidy, D. Foster, M.R. Howell, W.G. Hubbard, B. Jackson, C. Mayfield, D.B. Mead, S. Selveira, and E. Taylor (2008). "The Southern U.S. Forest Bioenergy Encyclopedia: Making Scientific Knowledge More Accessible." Southern Journal of Applied Forestry. 32(1) 28-32.

Hubbard, W.G. and L.R. Sandmann. (2007). "Using Diffusion of Innovation Concepts to Enhance Program Evaluation." Journal of Extension, Volume 45 (5). October, 2007 <http://www.joe.org/joe/2007october/ar.shtml>.

Hull, R. B. and S.F. Ashton. (accepted for publication in 2008). "Forest Cooperatives Revisited." Journal of Forestry.

Merry, K., P. Bettinger, & W.G. Hubbard (accepted for publication in 2008). "Back to the Future Part I: Results of a Survey of County Planners on the use of Visualization Models and Software." Journal of Extension.

Merry, K., Bettinger, P. & W.G. Hubbard (accepted for publication in 2008). "Back to the Future Part II: Results of a Survey of County Extension Agents on the use of Visualization Models and Software." Journal of Extension.

Peer Reviewed Proceedings Papers

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Hubbard, W.G. 2007 Forestry Outlook. AgSouth Publication. 2007.

Other Articles

Ashton, S.F. 2007. Sustainable Forestry for Biomass and Bio-based Products. Timber Mart South Quarterly, 4th Quarter 2007.



PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

Ashton, S. F. 2007. Sustainable Forestry for Bioenergy and Bio-based Products: And Education Training, and Technology Transfer Initiative Update. Poster given at the 15th European Biomass Conference in Berlin, Germany.

Ashton, S.F. and W.G. Hubbard. Extension Panel—Extension from a Regional Perspective. Presentation given at the 13th Annual Symposium on Society and Natural Resource Management in Park City, UT

Hubbard, W. G. 2007. An Update of the Southern Forest Resources Assessment. ArkLaTex Forestry Forum, Shreveport, Louisiana.

Hubbard, W. G. 2007. An Update of the Southern Forest Resources Assessment, Louisiana Landowner Forum, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Hubbard, W.G. 2007. An Update of the Southern Forest Resources Assessment. Louisiana SAF meeting, Hammond, Louisiana.

Hubbard, W. G. 2007. The Southern Fire Portal and Its Value to the Forestry Community. Fire and Fuels Conference. Sandestin, Florida.

Hubbard, W.G. 2007. Extension Forestry Update. Southern Program Leadership Network meeting, Lexington, Kentucky.

Hubbard, W. G. 2007. Extension Forestry Update. Southern National Association of University Forest Resources Programs Meeting (SNAUFRP). Charleston, South Carolina.

Hubbard, W. G. 2007. Extension Forestry Update. Southern Extension Forestry Unit Leaders meeting. Athens, Georgia.

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Hubbard, W. G. 2007. Forest Certification. Chinese Foresters Visit. Athens, Georgia.

SHORTCOURSES PRODUCED

Hubbard, W. G., and K. Irwin. 2007. Forestry for Nonforesters Part I. Athens, Georgia

Hubbard, W. G. and K. Irwin. 2007. Forestry for Nonforesters, Part II, Athens, Georgia

Hubbard, W. G. and B. Jackson. 2007. Alternative Enterprises for Your Forestland. Athens, Georgia.

FACILITATED SESSIONS

Southern Wood Products Extension and Technology Transfer meeting, Lexington, Kentucky.

“ 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. ”

The Southern Regional Extension Forestry office plans to continue to provide assistance to state Extension services and the USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry. Several exciting activities are scheduled to allow us the opportunity to do this.

The interest in web based knowledge management application continues to increase. Several projects are planned including continued 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 various channels.

On the Master Tree Farmer front, plans are to continue the “mini-series” approach to distance education programming with a three part series in September entitled “Managing Risk in Your Forest”. This mini-series will include presentations on how to manage and mitigate all the risk that forest owners must deal with—such as fire, wind, ice, invasive exotics, regulations, taxes, and other issues. The regional Master Tree Farmer website (<http://www.mastertreefarmer.net>) will contain updates on the program as they become available.

In addition, a regional Webinar Series is planned for natural resource professionals,

county agents, and landowners. The Webinar Series will be planned and executed by a regional team of Extension, state forestry, Forest Service and other experts. These Webinars will be delivered using state-of-the-art technologies and distance education principles of learning.

The SREF also plans to continue leadership in two evaluation arenas in 2008. The first will be an assessment of the impact of the Master Tree Farmer program. The SREF plans to develop a survey to investigate the adoption of practice rates of participants. In addition, the survey will also investigate what factors influence non-adoption. The other evaluation project will involve a regional assessment of audiences and outreach efforts of Extension, state forestry and other natural resource educators. This assessment will provide valuable data on how to reach our audiences of the future.

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.



CHARTER
for the Southern Region
SCIENCE DELIVERY ADVISORY COUNCIL
established by the
Forest Service Southern Research Station
in cooperation with the
Forest Service Southern Region
and the Cooperative Extension Service

PURPOSE

The Southern Region Science Delivery Advisory Council (SDAC) is established by the Forest Service Southern Research Station in cooperation with the Forest Service Southern Region and the Cooperative Extension Service in order to formalize a science delivery program partnership. This will ensure a continued collaborative effort to deliver information and technology and educate stakeholders in an efficient and equitable manner.

BACKGROUND

Although the Southern Region and the Southern Research Station have a long history of working together, the recent focus to expand the science delivery program throughout the Agency revealed the need to explore opportunities to share resources and expertise. In addition, the unique challenges presented by the rapidly changing southern landscape have further emphasized the need to work collaboratively in order to reach the South's large and diverse customer base.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTHERN REGION SCIENCE DELIVERY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Objectives: The Science Delivery Advisory Council will facilitate and coordinate the interchange of information, technology and resources. The Council will identify, prioritize, develop and lead the implementation of joint outreach and education strategies. The Council will make recommendations to the SRS Director to improve the methods, tools and techniques utilized for outreach and education in order to enhance the overall science delivery program.

MEMBERSHIP

The Science Delivery Advisory Council will be composed of members from the Southern Research Station, Southern Region and the Cooperative Extension Service:

- Southern Research Station (SRS)
 - Science Delivery Coordinator

- Technical Information Specialist
- A Representative and Alternate from each Science Area
- The Assistant Director for each of the Science Areas will appoint a Representative and Alternate to serve on the committee at his/her discretion.

Southern Region

- A Representative from State and Private Forestry (will represent Cooperative Forestry, Forest Health and Fire & Aviation)

- A Representative from the National Forest System

Cooperative Extension Service

- Southern Region Extension Forester (will represent the Forestry School Deans and Extension Foresters from the 13 Southern 1860 and 1890 land grant universities)

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The SRS Science Delivery Coordinator will serve as the Chair of the Council. The Chair will convene meetings each quarter and as needed throughout the fiscal year. Meeting locations will be rotated and teleconferences, net meetings and other communication tools will be utilized to defer travel costs.

The Chair will coordinate the functions of the Council and lead the implementation of joint projects and activities. The Chair will also provide regular updates to the SRS Director, Management Team, Regional Forester and others as requested.

The Technical Information Specialist will serve as the publications representative and will provide information regarding SRS publications and tools and make recommendations regarding available research and appropriate delivery methods. The Specialist will also serve as the meeting facilitator and records keeper.

The Science Area Representatives will serve as the main contact for science delivery within their area and will gather input, coordinate, streamline and integrate efforts, activities and projects to enhance science delivery. They will provide regular updates to their respective Assistant Directors, Project Leaders and others as requested. The Alternates will serve on behalf of the Science Area Representatives as needed.

The Science Delivery Coordinator, Technical Information Specialist, Science Area Representatives and Alternates will also function as the SRS Science Delivery Committee to provide internal coordination for outreach and delivery.

The State and Private Forestry, National Forest System and Cooperative Extension Service Representatives will gather input and exchange information within their respective areas in order to identify gaps in program delivery, assess needs and make recommendations for joint strategies, projects and activities to enhance the science delivery partnership.



