



[www.sref.info](http://www.sref.info)  
[contact@sref.info](mailto:contact@sref.info)



Southern Regional  
Extension Forestry



Southern Regional  
Extension Forestry

# Multi-Year Report

## 2021-2025



# Southern Regional Extension Forestry

2021-2025 MULTI-YEAR REPORT



Southern Regional  
Extension Forestry



# Table of Contents

<b>Summary</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>About SREF</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Creating Communications and Learning Networks</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Social Network Analysis of Southern Regional Extension Forestry..	8
The News Digest .....	9
Regional Extension Meetings .....	11
Extension Education, Outreach, Forestry, & Natural Resource Programming Delivery Mode Fees and Survey Report .....	17
<b>Strategic Partnerships</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Expanding Institutional Capacity</b> .....	<b>24</b>
Guidebook for Prescribed Burning in the Southern Region .....	25
Woodland Stewards Webinar Series .....	29
4-H Forestry Invitational .....	32
Forestry Economic Development .....	33
<b>IT Services</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>Apps and Websites Created and Maintained</b> .....	<b>50</b>
<b>Resources and Links</b> .....	<b>52</b>

# Summary



Dear colleagues and partners,

It is both a privilege and a challenge to summarize the work of Southern Regional Extension Forestry (SREF), especially when that work is deeply rooted in collaboration, communication, and support. As the lead for SREF, my role centers on enabling others—building strategic partnerships, expanding institutional capacity, and fostering learning networks across the South. Because so much of what we do is shared work, capturing it in a single report is no small task.

This report covers the period from 2021 through 2025, which has had its share of changes— from the COVID-19 pandemic, and now in 2025, federal government shifts, personnel transitions at our group and significant changes in forest markets. During these years, I also completed my doctorate in Adult Learning, Leadership, and Organizational Development at the University of Georgia, (my administrative base). Throughout, my focus has remained on serving the region—

connecting people, promoting programs, and helping Extension and agency professionals do their work more effectively.

SREF was founded in 1978 through a partnership between the 13 southern land-grant universities and the U.S. Forest Service. While other regional centers have come and gone, SREF remains, a testament to the South's strong tradition of collaboration. Today, our small team continues to support forestry and wildlife Extension across the region, with limited capacity but a deep commitment to impact. Over the past five years, we have convened regional meetings, supported new Extension professionals, and facilitated connections across state lines and disciplines. We've promoted your work through newsletters, social media, and national representation, striving to ensure that great programs and resources reach the audiences who need them. Our IT team has continued to create critical web-based tools and applications for Extension partners and have been available for consultations on IT projects. Currently, our IT team is rebuilding, as our senior developer has retired, and we are readjusting workloads and rehiring. However, a core aspect of SREF's work involves not just sharing resources but also maintaining and updating them to ensure they remain accessible and relevant over time.

This year has been especially tough for southern forest markets and for promoting active forest management. Looking forward, SREF will continue to serve as a point of contact and remain actively engaged in regional and national conversations as well as our work supporting state efforts related to forestry markets and prescribed fire education. We will also work to strengthen collaborations across the region by hosting regional meetings, sharing partner events, and making educational assets— like the prescribed fire guidebook visuals and compilations of disaster relief tools— available across networks. Explore creation of smaller sub-regional working or discussion groups, catalog resources for future disasters and more. Strengthening connections and partnerships between federal agencies like NRCS and the USFS and Extension will continue.

This report is a snapshot of our efforts, and while it cannot capture every conversation or connection, it reflects the spirit of service and collaboration that defines SREF. I welcome your feedback, ideas, and look forward to continued partnership as we look ahead. Please don't hesitate to reach out—I'm always happy to connect, collaborate, and support your work in any way I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie A. Boby". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Leslie Boby  
Director



# INVESTING IN SOUTHERN REGIONAL EXTENSION FORESTRY YIELDS RETURNS

The southern Extension & outreach forestry community works hard to support forestry, serve forestland owners, facilitate the sound management of our forest resources & promote the forestry industry.

## Southern Regional Extension Forestry (SREF) exists to serve these professionals and make their jobs easier by:

### Creating Communication & Learning Networks



"Whether it be facilitating economic summits, publishing research and extension publications or partnering on extramural funding, I've been able to gain opportunities that otherwise would not be available to me had SREF not been a partner."

—Shaun Tanger, Associate Professor, University of Arkansas, Monticello

### Developing Strategic Partnerships



"Thinking about all of the collaboration within the committee, we could not do what we set out to do, without SREF's capabilities and support. The USFS is asking the states to work together on a lot of things, across program areas, across states and we think that SREF helps center that and pull it together."

—Barry New, Technical Development & Planning Branch Head, North Carolina Forest Service

### Expanding Institutional Capacity



"Fostering relationships can lead to successful grants or programs. Bringing regional resources to do educational or grant projects would not happen without SREF to 'instigate' and bring everyone together."

—Wayne Clatterbuck, Extension Forester, University of Tennessee (retired)

# What We Do



**Opportunities to Connect, problem- solve and collaborate** “...Come with issues, and we will solve it as a team. The Forestry Webinar Portal emerged from discussions at SREF Extension Unit Leader Annual Meetings” —Eric Taylor, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension & Forest Service



**Point Person** “SREF spearheads collaboration across the south, if you don’t have a point person or point organization, then it does not get done.” —Robert Smith, Professor of Forest Products Marketing & Associate Dean, Virginia Tech (retired)



**Access to forestry- knowledgeable IT professionals** who provide consultations & development of websites, mobile- apps, decision support tools & more! Funded by IT services, contracts & grants.



**Regional Grants & Funding** “By bringing everyone together to talk about what is going on, and others’ expertise creates new opportunities for programming or even funded grants” —Wayne Clatterbuck, Extension Forester, University of Tennessee (retired)



**Benefits for New Faculty** “SREF helps new faculty by making new connections that create opportunities for them to build out what they need for promotion and tenure.” —Robert Bardon, Associate Dean of Forestry Extension, North Carolina State University

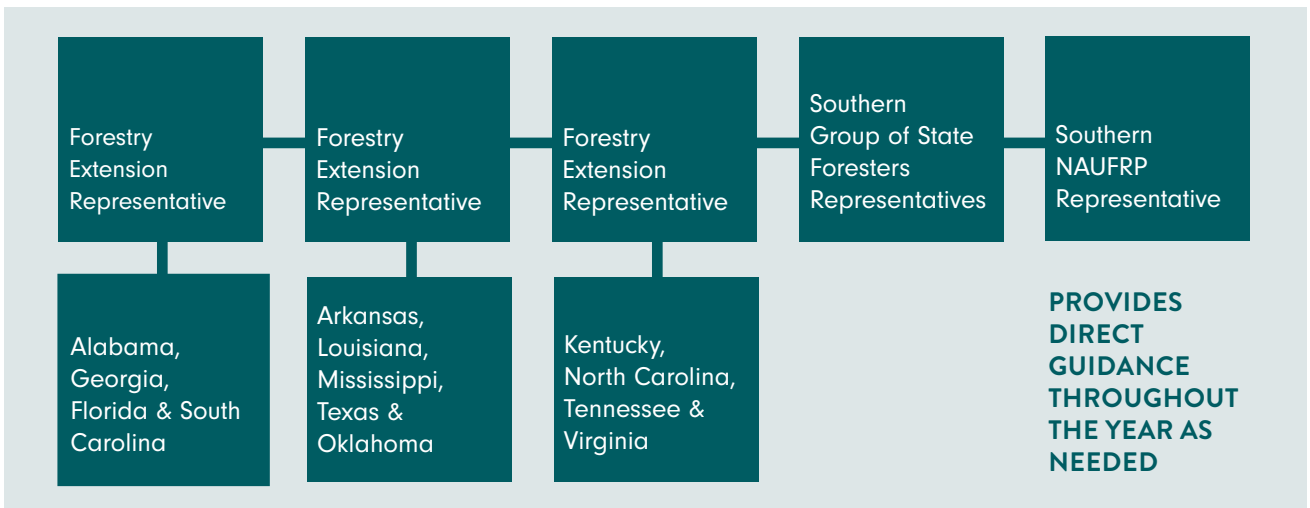
**Founded nearly 50 years ago (in 1978), through a partnership with southern land grant university Extension directors & the US Forest Service, SREF is the only regional forestry Extension office in the country.**

# Advisory Board

The Advisory Board collectively provides vision, strategy, and direction. It meets periodically, but at least once a year, and is composed of all entities that consistently provide support for SREF.



# Executive Committee



# SREF Funding Structure

The Southern Regional Extension Forestry (SREF) program is supported through a combination of state, federal, and project-based funding sources:

## Core SREF Funding Including Director Salary & Benefits Provided By:

State contributions to SREF, with additional support from grants, project work, and administrative fees from IT-related grants.



## Funding for IT team & support staff

### IT Team Salary & Benefits:

Supported by fees for developing and maintaining websites, web-based tools, and mobile apps.

### Hourly Staff, Travel, and Operational Expenses:

Funded by specific grant-supported projects, IT development efforts, and the U.S. Forest Service's Region 8, State, Private & Tribal Forestry program.



# Staff

## IT Team



**DARRYL OUTLAW**  
IT Associate Director



**DANIEL DRUMMOND**  
IT Developer & Mobile  
Applications

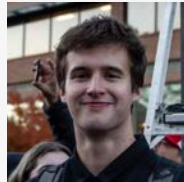
## Hourly Support Staff



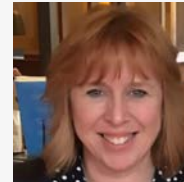
**JASMIN EL FARNAWANY**  
Design & Communications



**ANDREA WILSON**  
Administrative Support



**JACOB MAYNE**  
SREF Support

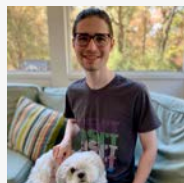


**MICHELLE ANDREWS**  
Newsletter Contributor

## Past Part-Time Support Staff



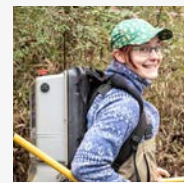
**DANI CORBIN**  
Newsletter Writer & SREF  
Support (2023-2024)



**INDIGO POWELL**  
IT Developer Assistant  
(2022-2025)



**SHIVAM RATHI**  
IT Application Support  
Professional (2024-2025)



**SARAH MCNAIR**  
Newsletter Writer & SREF  
Support (2021-2023)



**JESSICA SHAKLEE**  
Graphic Designer (2021-  
2023)



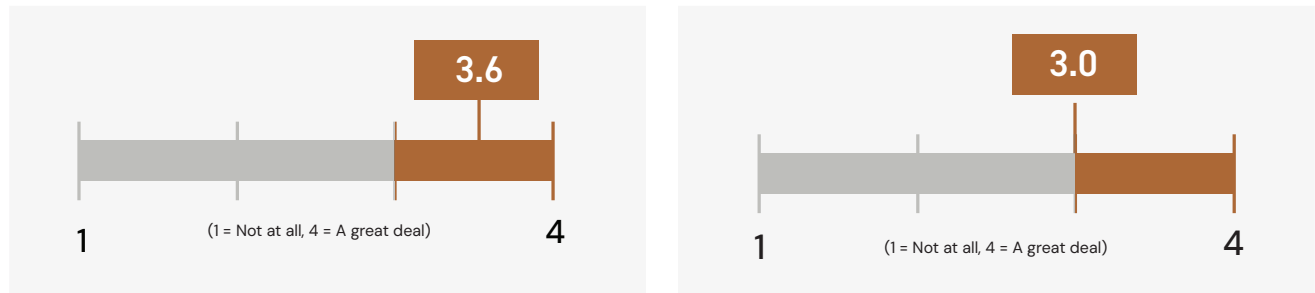
# Creating Communication & Learning Networks

SREF does a number of things to foster communication & learning networks including: producing bi-weekly newsletters, hosting Extension meetings for all faculty & staff in forestry units, serving as point person to connect people & promoting others via the newsletter & social media; as well as coordinating discussions on particular issues.

RESULTS FROM A SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS CONDUCTED BY A REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE:

# High levels of Trust & Value in SREF

SREF represents southern forestry Extension as a member of the Keeping Forests Collaborative, which is a coalition of diverse partners working together to conserve the natural, economic & cultural value of working forests in the U.S. South. They conducted a social network analysis to assess the strength and success of their network. Each of the 52 partner organizations (including state & federal government agencies, non-profits, forest industry, forest real estate investment trusts, etc., received their individual-level data. While these results were specific to Keeping Forests and its network, they capture some of SREF's strengths and value for the region, as perceived by other network partners.



## Strong Overall Value

This score measures the extent to which the member brings different forms of value to the network.

## Highly Trusted

Overall trust is based on the degree to which other organizations perceive the organization as being reliable, supportive & open for frank discussions.

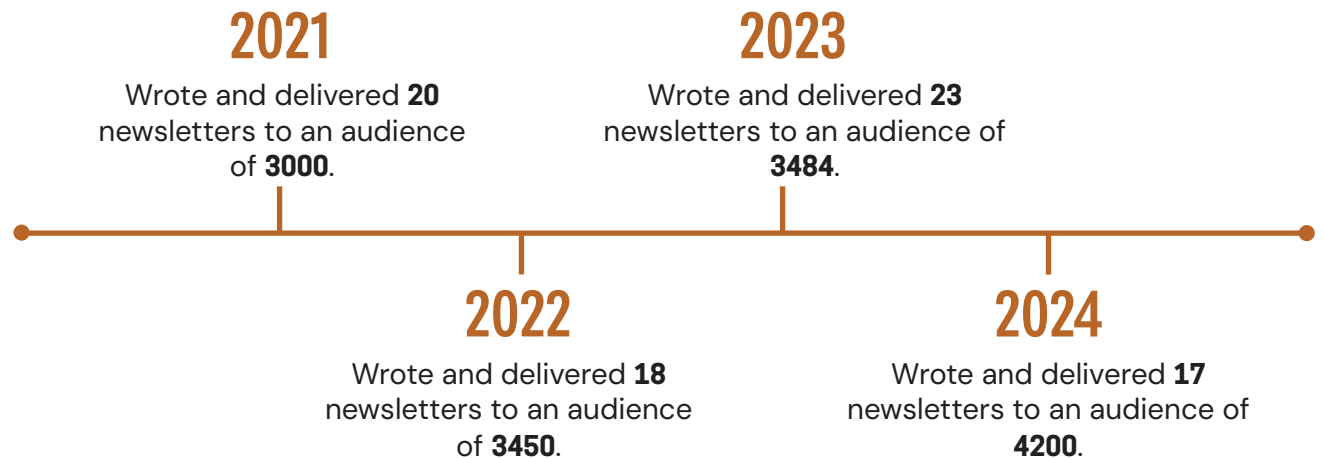
**SREF was listed as one of the key players in information exchange in this analysis**

# SREF News Digest

The SREF News Digest, a bi-weekly newsletter, is your essential source for staying well-informed in the ever-evolving realm of forestry and natural resource management. As the name suggests, this publication is dedicated to delivering timely and pertinent insights. We are committed to providing our readers with up-to-date information sourced from state and federal agencies, trusted partners, and experienced outreach professionals. Whether you're seeking the latest regulatory updates, innovative industry practices, or practical insights from the field, the SREF News Digest is your go-to resource for staying ahead in the forestry and natural resource sector.

The SREF News Digest consists of: Regional & National News, Funding Opportunities, Job Opportunities, and Grant Opportunities.

- **Regional & National News** keeps readers updated on trends, impactful studies, and critical updates from local, regional, and national forestry sectors.
- **Funding Opportunities** highlights grants, loans, and resources to support forestry projects, innovative research, and natural resource management initiatives.
- **Job Opportunities** connects professionals with career openings in academia, industry, and government, offering a variety of roles.
- **Webinars & Events** provides a curated list of upcoming webinars, workshops, and conferences designed to inform, educate, and encourage collaboration.
- **Grant Opportunities** showcases critical funding programs to help organizations, researchers, and landowners secure financial resources for their efforts.



Share your news! Email [SREFNewsletter@sref.info](mailto:SREFNewsletter@sref.info) and we will add it in

# Evaluation of SREF News Digest 2023

In 2023, SREF conducted a survey to assess the areas where the News Digest was performing well and identify areas for improvement. Through this process it was found that:

Overall, the SREF Digest was rated:

4.3/5

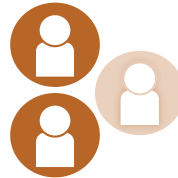


*"I appreciate the information about upcoming educational workshops, meetings, and webinars very much. Thank you for sharing this in a timely manner!"*

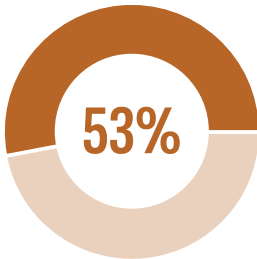
3484

Subscribers in 2023

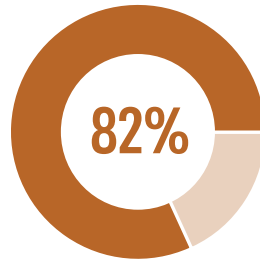
64%



are satisfied with and prefer to receive the newsletter bi-weekly



Would or have already recommended the newsletter to a colleague



Feel that the newsletter is arranged in an easy-to-follow manner

Subscribers expressed a strong desire for more:



Research Summaries



Policy Developments



Podcasts

The SREF Digest has an average open rate of 69%



Subscribe:  
<https://sref.info/>

# 2023 Southern Regional Extension Forestry, Wildlife, Natural Resources Meeting

📍 HICKORY KNOB STATE PARK, MCCORMICK, SC

🕒 FEBRUARY 2-3, 2023

This meeting, which was co-hosted by Clemson Forestry Extension team, brought together over 50 attendees from multiple institutions across the South. The goal of the meeting was to enhance connections between seasoned and newer Extension faculty, foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing and discuss regional needs.

The meeting included panel discussions on funding and agent-specialist collaborations and opportunities in addition to 10+ lightning presentations. There was also time in the agenda for 3 small group discussions on: crossing state boundaries to leverage resources (regional collaborations), disciplinary or program areas, and Extension methods.

4.6 ★★★★★

OVERALL MEETING RATING

95%

of participants felt we were very close or right on target towards achieving our objective of creating a stronger regional network of Extension natural resource professionals at the county, regional, state, and multi-state levels.



EXTENSION



**“It was my first experience at an Extension focused meeting. I learned a lot about extension practices and better ways to communicate with agents and specialists when it comes to research findings and applications.”**

— Meeting Participant



**In addition to in-person meetings, SREF has coordinated various virtual Issue-Based Discussions and/or Hosted Speakers about:**

- Forest Carbon
- Certified Prescribed Burner Programs
- Micro-learning
- Generational Land Transfer Programs
- Forestry Economic Development & More
- Workforce development
- Funding Opportunities & more

# 2024 Forestry Extension Unit Leaders Meeting

OK - Including Unpublished N Extension Research  
**Strengths / Cool Projects** <sup>of time spent for OK</sup>

- Online monthly "coffee" hour / Zoom
- Outreach Warnell Live → 10/8 min presentation

Past year Auburn did big campaign to promote G+  
 → new director of Communications  
 → ramped up social media → bought Ads at Football  
 → great response!!  
 → Ad buys created greater awareness of Extension

**Challenges**

- have modernized tracking of landowners they have helped
- difficult county agent collect info
- became brook electronic system where
- section automate → can track → can track forest status

**ELMER!** Great Land mgmt record system  
 → trade clients-based permit land mgmt plan

1X mapping tool → game

Cool projects / Strengths

- ① VA State Progress
- ② TN Nat'l tree Program <sup>Earl Dow</sup>
- D Buck Porch forestry - started by <sup>Sharon</sup> Phillippe
- D TN Healthy Hardwoods <sup>Dusty</sup> TN

"Welcome to your Woods" - acquire names +  
 of New forest landowners  
 → mail them a packet of new int information

→ **Cull-to-Vote** → for prisoners coming out of  
 → + million contacts

**NC - Bradford Pest** → for detection of Emerald  
 Ashborne

**GA @ Warnell/Owl** brief presented - Raygan Nick

**VA I'minitothefront** **Gen Next** program VA

Agroforestry VR John Monnell - tons of funding

In February 2024, the unit leaders for the forestry & wildlife Extension programs from across the South met in-person in Atlanta or joined virtually to connect on regional issues and share information about their programs.

Participants shared information about their successes, issues they were working on and that cross state lines, resources/strengths from their programs as well as resources that they need.

## Contributing Organizations:



Warnell School of Forestry  
 & Natural Resources  
 UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
 RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
 University of Arkansas System



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
 EXTENSION



Discussion Notes from Conference Breakout Groups

# 2025 Southern Region Extension Forestry, Wildlife & Natural Resources Meeting

Nearly 60 forestry, wildlife, and natural resources Extension professionals from across the Southern region gathered at the Southern Regional Extension Forestry, Wildlife & Natural Resources Meeting at Plymouth Bluff Center. This two-day event provided an opportunity for attendees to exchange ideas, collaborate on projects, and gain insights into emerging trends and best practices in Extension work.

## Engaging Discussions & Learning Opportunities

The meeting featured lightning presentations, panel discussions, and mini-workshops on topics crucial to Extension professionals, including:

- **Reaching & Retaining Underserved Audiences** – Strategies for engaging diverse landowners and youth in forestry education.
- **Carbon in Forestry** – Exploring the role of carbon markets and sustainable practices in land management.
- **Regional Collaborations** – Highlighting successful partnerships that drive innovation and impact.
- **Funding Opportunities** – Insights from the U.S. Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on securing funding for Extension programs.
- **Technology & Innovation** – Workshops on AI tools for Extension professionals, AR/VR applications for forestry education, and gamifying citizen science.

## Hands-On Learning & Creativity

To keep participants engaged, pipe cleaners were provided to keep their hands busy while listening to the presentations. This sparked a friendly competition among participants, showcasing impressive creations while adding a fun, hands-on element to the meeting.

Beyond the formal sessions, small group discussions encouraged professionals to dive into shared interests, challenges, and future collaborations. The event also provided time for networking and informal discussions, strengthening the connections between Extension colleagues.

## Looking Ahead

As the forestry and natural resources landscape continues to evolve, this meeting reinforced the importance of collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and adaptation in Extension work. With new skills, fresh insights, and stronger professional relationships, attendees left inspired and equipped to advance their programs and better serve their communities.



# Extension, Education and Outreach Forestry and/or Natural Resource Programming Delivery Mode & Fees Survey Report 2021

In November 2020, Southern Regional Extension Forestry (SREF) conducted a national survey to better understand the modes of delivery and fees charged for forestry and natural resource (FNR) Extension and outreach programs for both professional and non-professional audiences, especially in the context of changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey was distributed via newsletters, personal contacts, and social media, and targeted Cooperative Extension professionals and outreach staff from state agencies or non-profits. A total of 190 responses were collected, with 158 from individuals actively delivering FNR programming. Respondents reported on 343 unique programs.

## Key Goals

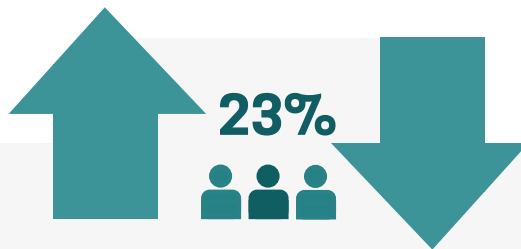
- Understand program delivery methods (in-person vs. online)
- Assess how COVID-19 impacted those methods
- Explore if and how fees are charged for programs
- Compare programs targeted at professionals and non-professionals

# 158/190

Total Survey Respondents

Offer Forestry &/or Natural Resources Programs

Respondents reported on **343** unique programs.



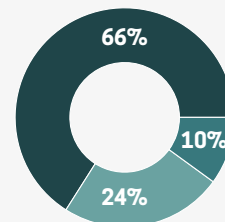
**Increase:** "Can reach a wider geographical area, therefore more people."

"Increased at the beginning, has dwindled recently (online fatigue)"

**No Change:** "It seems in some cases attendance has gone down, in some it has remained fairly steady."

- Reached new audiences
- Did not reach new audience
- Unsure

\* Percentages based on respondent data



The pandemic prompted major shifts in how programs are delivered, pushing organizations and audiences to quickly adjust to digital formats. These changes created opportunities to reach new audiences and test flexible delivery models. Online programming increased significantly and has continued over the years, with most respondents maintaining or investing further in their virtual offerings.

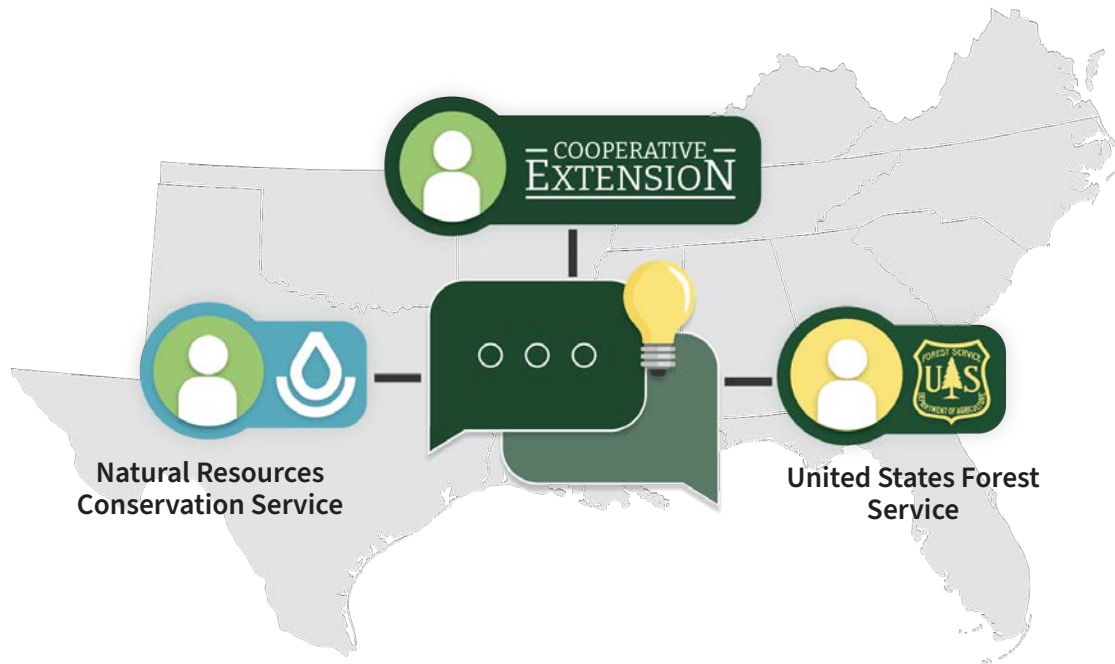
[https://sref.info/articles/extension-education-and-outreach-forestry-and-or-natural-resource-programming-delivery-mode-fees-survey-report/FNR\\_program\\_online\\_fees\\_survey%20report\\_011222.pdf](https://sref.info/articles/extension-education-and-outreach-forestry-and-or-natural-resource-programming-delivery-mode-fees-survey-report/FNR_program_online_fees_survey%20report_011222.pdf)



# Strategic Partnerships

SREF works to develop strategic partnerships by: coordinating meetings between Extension forestry & wildlife personnel and other groups; connecting groups and resources to Extension personnel; and representing Extension in regional or national groups or meetings.

# Regional Collaborations



## Strengthening Connections Regionwide Between NRCS & Forestry Extension Personnel

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has many forestry/wildlife specific staff and programs that focus on landowners, and are a natural partner to Extension. Over the past few years, SREF has worked to create greater connections regionwide between these two groups, which has especially been important as NRCS southern states have increased their number of forestry & wildlife staff.

SREF, NRCS East National Technology Support Center (ENTSC) & US. Forest Service State, Private & Tribal Forestry groups co-hosted a series of virtual meetings for introductions & discussions, as well as participating in in-person meetings.

# Regional Committees & Boards

Below are some of the committees and boards that SREF is or has served on.



## Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals

- National Extension Wildland Fire Initiative Leadership team
- Professional & Leadership Development Committee Member

<https://www.anrep.org/newfi.php>



## Shortleaf Pine Initiative

- Board member & website host

<https://shortleafpine.org/>



## ProForest

- Board member & former website host

<https://proforesthealth.org/>



## Southeast Region Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

- Committee member

<https://proforesthealth.org/>

## Southern Region Program Leadership Network, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

- Committee participant

<https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/>

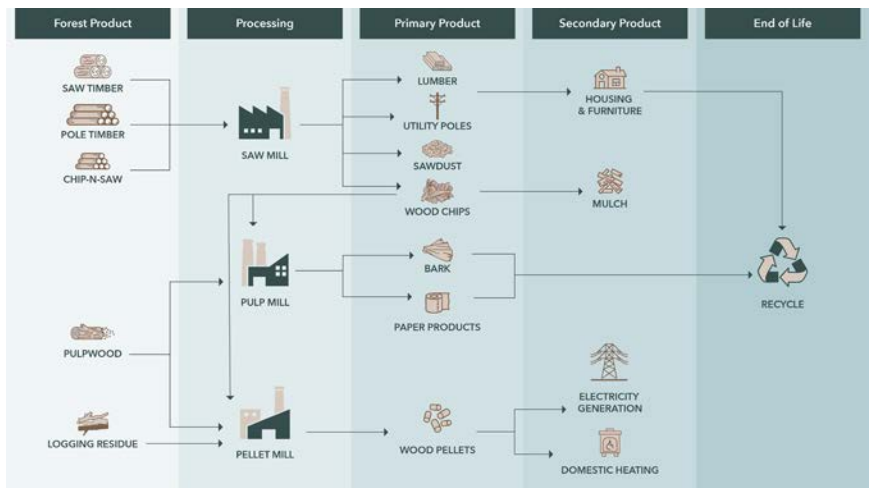
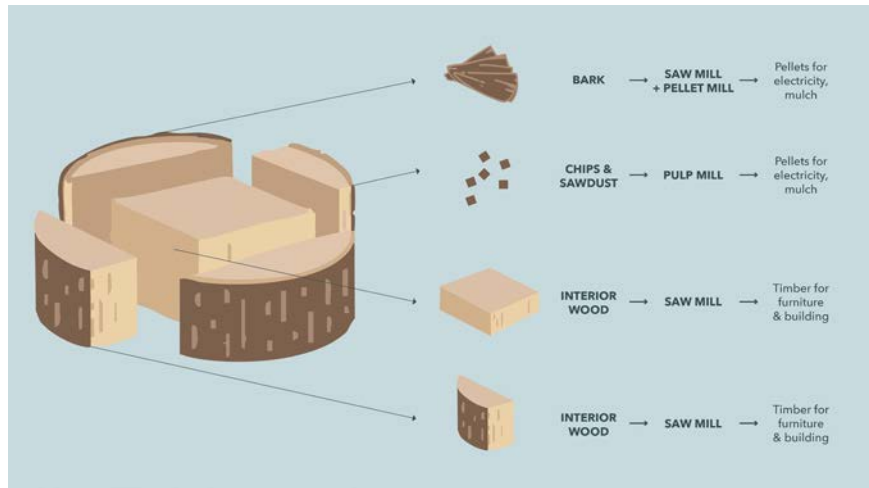
# Regional Collaborations

Below are some of the committees and boards that SREF is or has served on.

## Southern Group of State Foresters

- Partner on multiple projects to promote forest products from regional forest economic factsheets, to developing collaborations between economic developers & forestry stakeholders, & more
- Serve as point person to connect state forestry agencies to state Extension partners & more

<https://southernforests.org/>

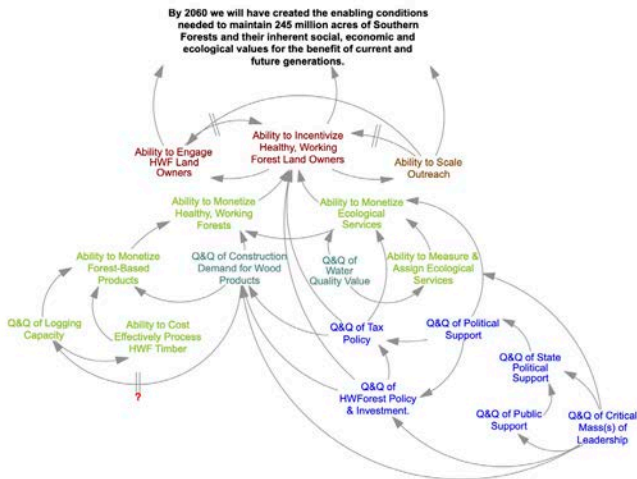


# Keeping Forests

Keeping Forests is a coalition of diverse partners working together to conserve the natural, economic, and cultural value of working forests in the U.S. South.

- Served on Emerging & Forest Markets Strategy Teams
- Participated in systems mappings exercises, design of innovation challenge for small-diameter wood & more.

<https://keepingforests.org/>



# Representing Extension in Regional & National Collaboratives &/or Meetings

Below are a few examples



9<sup>TH</sup> AMERICAN FOREST CONGRESS  
HEALTHY FORESTS. THRIVING COMMUNITIES

## 9th American Forest Congress (July 2025)

The purpose of these congresses is to draft and refine principles and resolution that influence the direction of forest conservation & management. The U.S. Forest Service was developed in response to resolutions from one of the first Congresses.

<https://forestcongress.org/>



## National Fish & Wildlife Foundation 30-year Strategic Planning Meeting (September 2025)



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## North American Forest Communicators Network- Inaugural Meeting, Guadalajara, Mexico (January 2024)

- Part of the United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization's global network of Regional Forest Communicators Networks

<https://www.fao.org/forestry/newsroom/news-detail/launch-of-the-north-american-forest-communicators-network/en>



## Womens Forest Congress (October 2022)



Opening session at the Inaugural North American Forest Communicators Network hosted by the CONAFOR, Mexico's National Forest Service





# Expanding Institutional Capacity

While SREF is small, we do our best to expand institutional capacity by finding or creating sharing resources that can be used across the region or could be adapted for other states; assisting with communications; Working on regional projects that are relevant to multiple states. In addition, we search for funding opportunities to share, as well as connecting teams writing proposals to Extension personnel in their state.

SREF provides access to forestry-knowledgeable IT Developers, who are available to discuss potential projects and help think through the components and/or develop them.

**The following pages summarize some of the work in three focus areas:** Landowner engagement/education, Prescribed fire, Forestry markets & the IT team's work



## SILVER WINNER

Recognized by the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP) in the Book or Program category.



## SOLD OUT IN LESS THAN 6 MONTHS

700 copies sold through the UGA Extension store between April and October 2024, with additional orders pending.



## 4,000+ BOOKS PRINTED

Supported by funding from stakeholders, including NGOs, ANREP workshops, and state forestry agencies



## TAUGHT IN CLASSROOMS

Being used as a text in 4 college classes and multiple Certified Prescribed Burner courses.



# GUIDEBOOK FOR PRESCRIBED BURNING

## IN THE SOUTHERN REGION





# The Guidebook For Prescribed Burning in the Southern Region

Whether individuals started burning with their grandparents as toddlers or have never held a drip torch, the “Guidebook for Prescribed Burning in the Southern Region” helps them set and meet their burning goals. Written for a variety of experience levels, the book focuses on what needs to be done, but also includes detailed descriptions, definitions, and more in-depth information. All diagrams, tables, and visuals from the guidebook are available for use. Find them in the Resources section.





**A team of 8 Extension and Fire Professionals wrote the Guidebook iteratively over six years and nearly 40 experts reviewed it in multiple rounds.**



**Action chapters** focus on the steps involved in prescribed fire from start to finish.

-  Getting Started
-  Planning The Burn
-  Conducting The Burn
-  Evaluating The Burn

**Reference chapters** provide more in-depth information, so readers can improve their understanding of each topic.

-  Weather
-  Smoke Management
-  Fuel
-  Fire Behavior

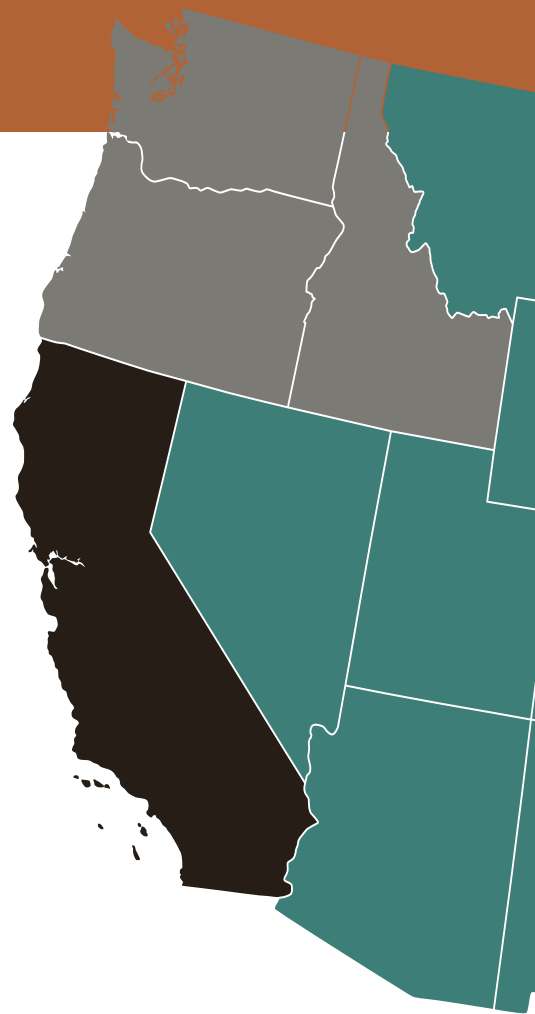
“The Guidebook for Prescribed Burning is not a book you’ll read cover to cover and then put away. Instead it’s a process that helps you plan a prescribed fire by leading you through every step, from the earliest stages months or even a year before you light any fire.”

- Lindsay Thomas Jr., National Deer Association

# Adapting the Guidebook for Other States & Regions



SREF Director Leslie Boby presented the Guidebook for Prescribed Burning to USFS Chief Tom Schulz at the American Forest Congress, where he served as a plenary speaker. A companion handout showcased how Extension professionals collaborated with USFS scientists to develop a resource now actively used in Extension programs—and aligned with the Chief’s national priorities. Additional copies of the book were shared with plenary speakers from the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.



SREF is collaborating with Extension teams across states and regions to adapt the Guidebook for Prescribed Burning. These localized versions retain the original structure, visuals, and core content—while incorporating area-specific details to better serve regional needs.





# WOODLAND STEWARDS WEBINAR SERIES

This webinar series was created by a team of Extension professionals from across the South & more. The purpose of the Woodland Stewards program is to empower woodland owners to promote environmental and forest health through increased awareness, experience and access to resources.

## OVER THE YEARS 2021-2024



# 4

Annual Webinar Series



# 6986

Total Unique Viewers



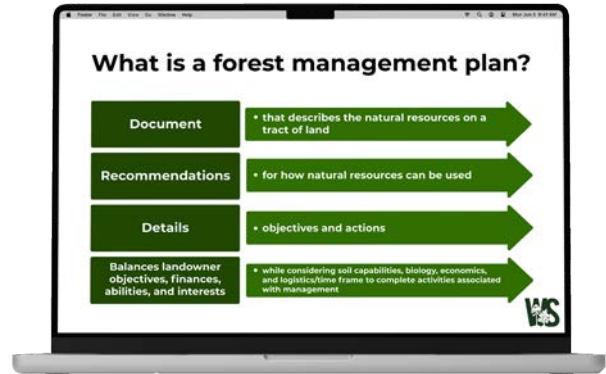
# 4.32

Average Rating



# 2839

Continuing Education Units Awarded



## SPONSORS



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
COLLEGE OF FOREST RESOURCES



Extension  
*University of Missouri*



AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™



Extension  
*University of Missouri*



EXTENSION



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
*College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences*

EXTENSION



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
*University of Arkansas System*  
ARKANSAS FOREST  
RESOURCES CENTER



University of  
Kentucky™

Forestry and Natural Resources Extension  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION



UNIVERSITY OF  
GEORGIA  
Warnell School of Forestry  
& Natural Resources



Virginia  
Cooperative  
Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

UT EXTENSION  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

## 2024 SILVOPASTURE: MANAGING YOUR WOODLANDS & LIVESTOCK IN A NEW-OLD WAY

1. **Silvopasture:** An Introduction and Overview
2. **Establishing Pine Silvopasture:** from Pastures to Plantations
3. **Establishing Hardwood Silvopasture:** from Pastures to Plantations
4. **From Forage to Livestock:** Managing Animals in a Silvopasture system
5. **Moving Towards a Silvopasture System:** Getting Started & Finding Help
6. **Silvopasture producers share their stories and Answer Questions:** A Panel Discussion

Total Unique Live + On-Demand Participants: 1202

Total CEUs Earned: 1,091

Average Rating Across the Series: 4.34

“This was an outstanding Introduction to Silvopasture. The webinar consisted of a great team of expert presenters who did an outstanding job presenting the material in an easy to understand and relatable format”

- Series Participant



## TIMBER BASIS BASICS



## Expenses + Deductions



## 2023 EXPLORING PRACTICES TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN WOODLANDS IN OPEN FOREST

1. **Creating Open Woodlands to Promote Regeneration & Development of White Oak**
2. **Wildlife Considerations When Restoring Oak/Pine Woodlands**
3. **Establishing and Managing Open Pine-Hardwood Stands**

Total Unique Live + On-Demand Participants: 1,808

Total CEUs Earned: 293

Average Rating Across the Series: 4.40

“Very thorough and complete presentation on open woodlands and oak regeneration. Easy to follow and great information. Very well done”

- Series Participant

## 2022 FOREST TAX WEBINAR SERIES

1. Seeing the Forest for the Trees: An Overview of Forestry Taxes
2. Basics of Timber Basis: Re(setting) the Table
3. Timber Management Expenses and Deductions
4. Keeping More of Your Timber Income Following a Timber Sale
5. Coping With Losses from Nature and Chance

Total Unique Live + On-Demand Participants: 2,664

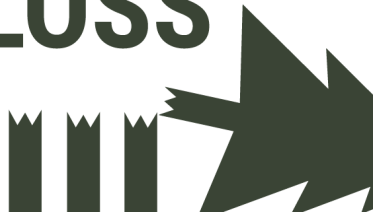
Total CEUs Earned: 1123

Average Rating Across the Series: 4.29

“These webinars are an exceptional resource for landowners trying to improve management of their property and pay only necessary taxes”

- Series Participant

### COPING WITH LOSS



### Income + Sales



## 2021 MANAGING YOUR WOODLANDS

1. Woodland Management by Objectives: Taking Stock & Making Plans:Basics of Timber Basis: Re(setting) the Table
2. Timber Management Expenses and Deductions
3. Keeping More of Your Timber Income Following a Timber Sale
4. Coping With Losses from Nature and Chance

Total Unique Live + On-Demand Participants: 1,312

Total CEUs Earned: 332

Average Rating Across the Series: 4.24

“One of the best (webinars) on this subject that I’ve been in on. Excellent framing and explanation of main considerations, with visuals to match... the host and main presenter did this in relaxed, folksy manner.”

- Series Participant

# 4H Forestry Invitational

The National 4-H Forestry Invitational is the national championship of 4-H forestry. Each year, since 1980, teams of 4-H foresters have come to Jackson's Mill State 4-H Conference Center at Weston, WV, to meet, compete, and have fun. The purpose of the Invitational is to develop an appreciation for the importance of conserving forestland as a source of products, benefits, and services necessary for quality living.

## Invitational Committee:

- Sunshine Brosi, Utah State University
- Linda Carnell, West Virginia Division of Forestry
- Todd Dailey, AGR Values LLC. of Florida
- Kevin Dodge, Garrett College
- Bill Hubbard, University of Maryland Extension
- Johnny King, West Virginia Division of Forestry
- Dave McGill, West Virginia University Extension
- Sheldon Owen, West Virginia University Extension
- Carlos Quesada, West Virginia University Extension
- Mahfuz Rahman, West Virginia University Extension
- Laurie Thomas, University of Kentucky Extension
- William Worrell, Virginia Cooperative Extension

## SREF Contributions:

- Redesigned & updated website
- Assisted the leadership team in securing additional funding support



COLLEGE OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
VIRGINIA TECH

 **EXTENSION SERVICE**



# Creating Connections and Synergy for Forestry Economic Development, Analysis and Communication:

## A Report Summarizing Ideas and Recommendations from the 2020 Forest Economic Contributions Summit

### Overview:

In the past 7 years, the SREF director has worked with Extension partners and utilization foresters on various projects related to forestry economic development. This work started with a project in 2019, included a summit in 2020 (report in 2021), as well as other workshops, webinar series, factsheets, community of practice meetings and a dissertation.

Some of this work is captured in: Boby, L. (2023). Creating New Markets is a Team Effort: Building New Connections and Sharing Knowledge in a Multi-State Community of Practice <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2917436668?pq-origsite=gscholar&fromopenview=true&sourcetype=Dissertations%20&%20Theses>

### Key Summit Findings & Recommendations centered around 3 themes:

- Economic development, Forestry Communications & Forestry Economic Analysis
- One key theme that emerged from these discussions was a need to facilitate stronger connections between economic development personnel, and forestry agencies/advocates, etc. within states and across the South
- Further workshops, webinar series & factsheets as well as collaborations were outcomes of this summit & its recommendations.

### Find the report here:

<https://sref.info/articles/creating-connections-and-synergy-for-forestry-economic-development-analysis-and-communication-1>

#### Creating Connections and Synergy for Forestry Economic Development, Analysis and Communication: A Report Summarizing Ideas and Recommendations from the 2020 Forest Economic Contributions Summit

This report was created to document the key findings and recommendations that resulted from the first "Forest Economic Contributions Summit: Strategies for Development, Communications & Education on the Sector's Role in the Region" held in New Orleans, LA in March 2020. The goal of the summit was to bring together stakeholders from various forestry organizations including state and federal agencies, cooperative extension personnel, associations, landowner advocate organizations, economic development personnel, etc. and provide opportunities for the attendees to learn from the presenters and each other. Around 60 people attended despite tightening restrictions on travel in the days immediately before the meeting due to COVID-19. Summit outcomes were centered around three areas that best represent the key discussions: forestry economic development, forestry economic messaging, and forestry economic data. Presenters at the summit included individuals who could speak to each of those content areas.

Three semi-structured small group sessions provided opportunities for attendees to identify challenges for each topic and strategies to address those challenges. This report is organized by topic area including forestry economic development, forestry communications, forestry economic analysis and workforce development. Information on the presentations from the summit are also included. Lastly, each section includes a brief summary of the group's focus as well as a list of different ideas and recommendations for reference or for further work on the topic.

**SUMMIT OBJECTIVES:** Connect forestry economic contribution analysts, economic development specialists, & advocates to learn from each other. Improve the understanding, usage & communication of forestry economic contribution data to promote forestry & the forest products industry.

#### Key Summit Findings and Recommendations:

Overall, summit participants indicated, in the discussion groups, that it would be important to find opportunities to connect and develop relationships between forestry stakeholders and economic development agencies and/or consultants. In addition, participants also agreed that there is a need to continue to work together to develop stronger forest economic messaging as well as explore opportunities to improve forest economic contribution analyses across the region. A few key recommendations that emerged from the Summit discussions are listed below:

Create opportunities to develop and strengthen the relationship between the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) and the Southern Economic Development Council (SECD). SGSF serves as a regional coordinating organization for forestry agencies in the thirteen southern states, while the SECD serves a similar role for state economic development agencies. Connecting the SGSF to SECD at the organizational level may be a more efficient way to promote forestry economic developers across the region. Specific ideas to promote this connection included: 1) identifying an individual to

serve as a liaison for SGSF with SECD, 2) invite a representative from SECD to speak at the SGSF annual meeting, 3) Ask SECD to allow an SGSF representative to speak at their annual meeting and also host a table, 4) identify other opportunities for SGSF & SECD to work together.

Promote connections from forestry agencies to economic development agencies within each state. Each state has its own state economic development council and it may be beneficial to find ways that the state forestry agency can connect more closely with the state economic development council. This connection may be done through attending, exhibiting and/or presenting at their annual meetings, or other meetings that are suggested, such as regional meetings within the state or county meetings.

Create opportunities for forestry agency employees and/or relevant others to attend basic economic development training. There are many 1-2-week economic training courses offered by various universities and/or private consultants.

Host a forest economic development summit in each state modeled after the regional forest economic summit.

# Southern Wood-based Economic Development Workshop

The Southern Wood-Based Economic Development Workshop, held in February 2024, in Panama City, Florida, brought together industry experts, economic development leaders, and forestry professionals to discuss the fundamentals of wood-based economic development in the Southern U.S. Hosted by the Southern Group of State Foresters' Services, Utilization, & Marketing Committee, the event aimed to further participants' understanding of site selection, business recruitment, and workforce development in the forestry industry.

## Goals of the workshop

- Strengthened understanding of the site selection process and economic development.
- Highlighted collaborative strategies between industry leaders and local communities.
- Provided actionable insights into workforce development and infrastructure planning.

## Takeaways

- ✓ Emphasized the importance of collaboration, industry partnerships, and strategic planning.
- ✓ Practical examples of successful wood-based industry projects were shared, reinforcing the potential for economic growth.
- ✓ Participants left with a deeper understanding of the tools and processes needed for advancing forestry-related economic development.



Funding for this workshop was provided by the U.S. Forest Service Wood Innovations Program



# Creating New Forestry Markets Webinar Series



Forestry meetings often highlight the need for expanding wood product markets. Yet, many professionals lack insight into the process behind creating or expanding these markets. This five-part webinar series explored the collaborative effort involving economic developers, site selection consultants, and forestry stakeholders in the wood-based economic development process.

## Audience:

This series targeted forestry and natural resource professionals and allies interested in economic development within forestry. It was also beneficial for economic developers or related professionals unfamiliar with forestry-specific development.

## Program Overview

### Expanding Forestry Markets- How is it done?

**Gary Faulkner** - Forest Economic Development Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission

### How do you Recruit Wood-based Businesses?

**Greg Barker** - President, Economic Development Partnership of Alabama

**Veronica Crock** - Senior Project Manager, Alabama Department of Commerce

### The Fundamentals of Workforce Development in Forestry

**Stephanie Fuller** - Director of Promotions and Economic Development, Forest Workforce Training Institute

**Rebecca M Hunt** - Public Service Faculty, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia

### Where Do You Find Clients and Who Can Help You? Forest Economic Development Allies

**Didi Caldwell** - President and CEO, Global Location Strategies

### Navigating Economic Development in Forestry in the South: Sustainably Growing Trees, Opportunities, & Jobs

**Dr. Leslie Boby** - Director, Southern Regional Extension Forestry

**J. Daniel Chappell** - Forestry Assistant Division Director, Alabama Forestry Commission

## Series Impact:

- Total Unique Live + On-Demand Participants: 673
- Total CEUs Earned: 623
- Average Rating Across the Entire Webinar Series: 4.3
- Average Viewers per Webinar: 190

# IT Services

The SREF IT team are exclusively focused on developing and maintaining websites, web tools, and mobile applications that support forestry and natural resource areas. They understand the audiences and their needs, and they deliver tailored digital solutions to support research, extension, education and outreach efforts.

**Available for consultations about any type of IT project!**

**Offering information Technology solutions for forestry and natural resource organizations for more than 20 years!**

## Key Services:



- Website & business process consulting
- Mobile app development
- Technical architecture planning
- Workflow processing
- Multi-device information collection
- Leading-edge end-user technology experiences
- Graphic design
- API integration
- Ongoing maintenance and reporting tools

**Have an idea & want input? Contact us anytime to discuss any potential IT products you have. Whether you hire our team or not, we can help.**

Funding for the IT Services team comes exclusively from contracts, grants, and web-hosting fees.

# Recognizing Darryl Outlaw's Contributions

As Darryl prepares for retirement this year, we want to express our deep gratitude for his many years of service and innovation. Since joining the team in 2008, Darryl has developed dozens of web-based tools that have significantly enhanced Extension outreach and engagement. Known for his creativity, problem-solving skills, and collaborative spirit, Darryl has built a lasting legacy of digital innovation.

One of his most impactful creations—the Forestry Webinar Portal—was developed in partnership with forestry Extension specialists and has grown to over 28,000 subscribers. It now ranks as the top search result for “forestry webinars,” a testament to its value and reach. Darryl’s work has helped shape how we connect, educate, and serve our audiences, and his contributions will continue to benefit the region for years to come.



“Working with Darryl over the years has been a true joy. He played a crucial role in the success of the Southern Regional Extension Forestry program, merging his exceptional technical skills together with an understanding of user experience and program objectives. His technical excellence always ensured program success. His dedication and “can-do” attitude reflect great credit upon himself and the Southern Regional Extension Forestry Program. He will be missed.”

— Robert Bardon, Associate Dean for Extension and Professor,  
College of Natural Resources NC State University

# Grants Processing Portal

## National Urban & Community Forestry Advisory Council Grant Portal Streamlined Application Processes

In 2022, IT developer Darryl Outlaw played a key role in creating and launching a new grant portal, which transformed the way that grant applications are submitted for the National Urban & Community Forestry Advisory Council. Launched with funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, the portal was designed to address the unique requirements of the grants program— something existing platforms like Grants.gov were not equipped to handle.

### Innovative Solutions-Consolidating Multiple Services into One Platform

Before this platform was created, applicants had to navigate multiple platforms to complete their grant submission before.

#### The new grant portal:

- **Streamlines submissions:** Once an application is completed, it uploads as a single PDF document.
- **Ensures confirmation:** Users receive instant notifications upon successful submission.
- **Facilitates reviews:** Standardized submissions made it easier for the funder and review panels to evaluate applications ; reduced administrative workload

#### Success:

More than 1,300 applications were submitted through the portal – 3x the number of expected submissions!

#### Ability to Adapt for Other Programs:

This system could be adapted to host other grant applications, as needed

#### 2020-2025 Grant Portal:

<https://ucfgrants2025.urbandcommunityforests.org/>

“It has been a pleasure working with Darryl as our IT specialist for our Federal Advisory Council and our national urban and community challenge cost share grant program, which included any directive grant funding for our states. His knowledge and professionalism helped solidify our confidence to transition in the IT realm with our program. His troubleshooting abilities and quick pivot to provide alternative solutions was amazing. It really helped us deliver the Urban and Community Forestry Program efficiently and effectively. Darryl made it fun to learn about all that he and his team was working on with his quick wit and patience as he explained the new platforms, servers, and innovative solutions for our program. He has left us in good hands with Daniel and their expertise reflects well upon SREF leadership.”

—Nancy Stremple, USFS – Urban & Community Forestry

# Webinar Portal

The **Webinar Portal**, developed by Southern Regional Extension Forestry (SREF) in collaboration with Extension forestry specialists across the southern region, is the leading **free online platform** for educational webinars in forestry, natural resources, conservation, climate science, and bioenergy.

With over 28,000 active national and international subscribers, the Portal is a one-stop shop for both webinar viewers and providers. It serves as wrap-around services for your webinar delivery, it handles the marketing, continuing education credits, surveys, registration, etc., while the provider delivers the content on a virtual platform.

## Key Features for Viewers

- Access to expert-led webinars across multiple disciplines
- Intuitive, user-friendly interface with personalized homepage features
- Easy CEU tracking and certification
- Centralized platform for professional development and learning

## Key Features for Providers

*Wrap-around services that automate time-consuming tasks & highlight the providers' organization branding*

- Subscriber management and targeted email marketing
- Registration tools, pre-surveys, quizzes, and post-webinar surveys
- CEU application and approval workflows
- Participant feedback, ratings, and impact surveys

Many webinars also offer **Continuing Education Units (CEUs)** through accrediting bodies such as, but not limited to:

- Society of American Foresters
- International Society of Arboriculture
- Wildlife Society
- And others

The screenshot displays the Forestry Webinar Portal website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'My Dashboard', 'LIVE WEBINARS', 'ON-DEMAND WEBINARS', 'ABOUT', 'HELP', and 'CALENDAR'. The main header features the 'FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES WEBINAR PORTAL' logo. Below the header, a 'Welcome to The Forestry Webinar Portal' section provides information about live and on-demand webinars, continuing education credits, and time savings. A 'Find More Upcoming Webinars Here:' section lists several upcoming webinars with dates and topics, such as 'Baldcypress Leafroller: What We Know and Where to Go' on 10/08/2025. On the right side, there are three vertical panels: 'Live This Week' featuring a webinar on 'Baldcypress Leafroller: What We Know and Where to Go' on Oct 8, 2025; 'Trending On-Demand' featuring a webinar on 'Pest Topics in Forest Management'; and 'Participant Feedback' with a testimonial from a user. At the bottom right, there is a 'SUBSCRIBE' button and a note that over 28,000 subscribers receive announcements of upcoming webinars.

## Four Main Portals:

The portal is one website divided into four main topic areas, each serving distinct audiences:



**Forestry Webinars**  
*forestrywebinars.net*



**Conservation Webinars**  
*conservationwebinars.net*



**Agriculture Webinars**  
*agwebinars.net (new)*



**Bioenergy Webinars**  
*bioenergywebinars.net*

## Funding Model:

The portal is funded by webinar providers. Webinar delivery services are offered per webinar, as part of series, or via contract or grants. Often webinars are funded as part of multi-state grants that include an outreach component that needs to reach a regional or national audience versus a statewide audience.

## Portal Fees Cover:

- Web hosting and server maintenance
- IT development and support salary

We are exploring ways to make the webinar portal more affordable for more users.

**28,256**

Subscribers

**1193**

Archived Webinars

**1.9M**

Page views in the past year

**14,303**

Continuing Education Units  
(CEU) earned in 2024

**199,000**

Continuing Education Units  
(CEU) earned since the portal  
launched!

**41,517**

Webinars viewed in 2024

By connecting researchers, professionals, and landowners, the Webinar Portal supports informed decision-making and strengthens education and outreach across the forestry and natural resource communities.

# Webinar Portal Updates & News

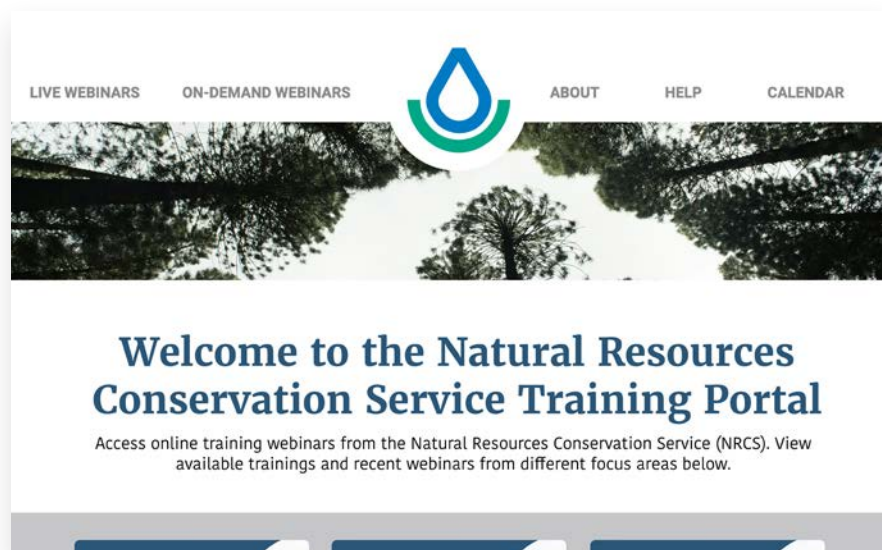
## Participant Dashboard In development

Allows users to track:

- ✓ Webinars they've pre-registered for
- ✓ Live webinars started, but not completed
- ✓ On-demand webinars, started, but not completed
- ✓ Webinars completed
- ✓ Portal subscription preferences

## Expanded Partnership with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Moving their entire virtual science & technology training library (that is not hosted on AgLearn) to The Webinar Portal- Conservation of Natural Resources Webinar Portal

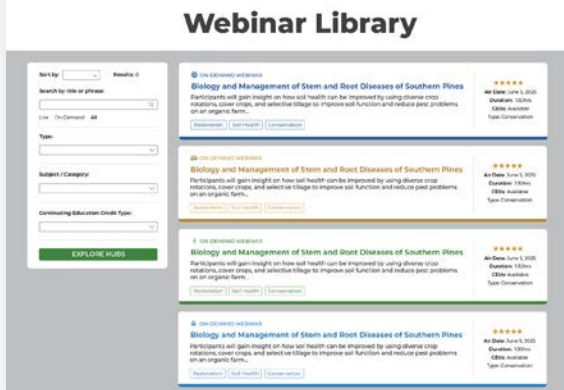


# Webinar Portal Redesign! Coming in 2026

Updating the Portal with a fresh look & easier navigation.



Fresh Visual Identity



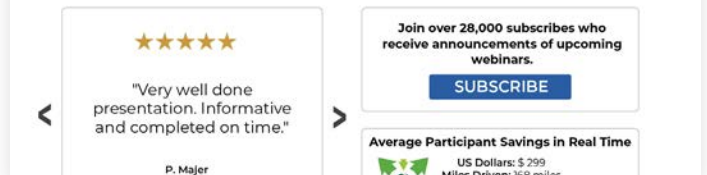
Enhanced Search Page



## Upcoming Webinars



## Recent & Trending Webinars



Redesigned Home Screen

# Tech Spotlight: Daniel Drummond

Daniel Drummond is an experienced IT Associate Director with Southern Regional Extension Forestry, where he has played a key role since joining the team in 2011. Daniel brings deep technical expertise and a problem-solving mindset to his work developing and maintaining web and mobile solutions that support forestry and natural resource education, research, and outreach.

Prior to joining SREF, Daniel worked on a range of IT solutions, from enterprise-level customer care and billing systems for telecommunications companies to intelligence dissemination tools and virtual reality simulators developed for the CIA, FBI, and Army intelligence. At SREF, he leverages this wide-range of experience to build practical, innovative tools that serve educators, professionals, and landowners across the Southern Region.

Daniel currently manages around 20 active websites and supports a growing portfolio of digital tools and apps. His work often balances creative development with technical constraints and stakeholder needs.

## Supporting the Extension Mission through IT work:

*“Creating solutions—whether it’s a website, an app, or a tool, it’s about making things easier and more accessible for people.” – Daniel Drummond*



Daniel Drummond (*middle*) & SREF staff Jasmin El Farnawany (*left*) and Shivam Rathi (*right*) at the 2025 Southern Extension retreat in Mississippi

**“Daniel is a reliable, go-to person for issues for the RNGR (Reforestation, Nurseries & genetic resources) network. He communicates clearly and has a deep understanding of web-based technology which has enhanced our tech transfer work greatly.”**

— Carrie Pike, Regeneration Specialist, Eastern Region State, Private & Tribal Forestry, Reforestation, Nurseries, & Genetic Resources (RNGR) team, USDA Forest Service

# RNGR REFORESTATION, NURSERIES, & GENETIC RESOURCES NETWORK



*The SREF IT team hosts these tools and mobile applications & co-hosted the tree improvement webinar series on the Webinar portal*

**RNGR provides a wide array of resources and tools for forestry professionals, nursery managers, and researchers, including:**

- The National Nursery and Seed Directory, regularly updated and connecting users with providers of seeds, nursery stock, planting, and post-planting services.
- A searchable service provider directory with filters for state, county, service type, and delivery area.
- A Quick Reference section featuring the site's most-used tools and resources.
- Mobile tools such as the I-Fertigate app for nursery irrigation planning.

**NATIONAL REFORESTATION & RESTORATION DIRECTORY**

[Click here for the new search interface.](#)

The directory is your online source for finding businesses that support the propagation of forest and native plant materials in the US and Canada. You can search the directory by name, state, product, or business type.

To submit updates or additions to the directory, please [contact us](#).

**Entries**  
30 items displayed of 1077 total.

**SEARCH THE DIRECTORY**

Text:

Email:

State:

Product:

Nursery Type:

**The National Nursery and Seed Directory Search Feature**

**Seed-Transfer Guidelines for Important Tree Species in the Eastern United States**

Editors  
Carolyn C. Pike  
Diane L. Haase

**Seed Transfer Guidelines**

**Tree Planters' NOTES**

Feb 2024 Vol. 42, No. 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE  
**Color-Coating Seeds**  
Improves Nursery Production

**Tree Planters Notes**

# 2024 WEBINAR SERIES: TREE IMPROVEMENT 101

## Introduction to Forest Genetics and Tree Improvement

**Carolyn "Carrie" Pike** PhD, Regeneration Specialist, Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources (RNGR) Program, USDA Forest Service – Eastern Region State, Private, and Tribal Forestry

**Kevin M Potter**, Research Ecologist, Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center of the USDA Forest Service's Southern Research Station



## Modes of Selection in Tree Improvement Programs

**Charles Dana Nelson** PhD, Research Geneticist / Project Leader, Southern Research Station, Southern Institute of Forest Genetics, Harrison Experimental Forest, US Forest Service  
**Carolyn "Carrie" Pike** PhD, Regeneration Specialist, Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources (RNGR) Program, USDA Forest Service – Eastern Region State, Private, and Tribal Forestry

## Breeding Designs and Genetic Gain in Tree Improvement Programs

**Carolyn "Carrie" Pike** PhD, Regeneration Specialist, Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources (RNGR) Program, USDA Forest Service – Eastern Region State, Private, and Tribal Forestry  
**Trevor Walker**, Assistant Professor of Forest Genetics, North Carolina State University

## Employing Tree Improvement Concepts for Resistance Breeding

**Kathleen "Katie" McKeever** PhD, Forest Pathologist, State, Private & Tribal Forestry, Forest Health Protection, US Forest Service

**Carolyn "Carrie" Pike** PhD, Regeneration Specialist, Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources (RNGR) Program, USDA Forest Service – Eastern Region State, Private, and Tribal Forestry

## Assisted Migration 101 – Seed Source Considerations

**Andy Bower**, Climate Adaptation Specialist, Office of Sustainability and Climate with the U.S. Forest Service  
**Katie Frerker**, Adaptation Specialist, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS)

## Seed Orchard Management: Black Walnut

**Ron Revord**, Assistant Research Professor, School of Natural Resources at the University of Missouri

## The A,B,C's of Gmos: Unpacking Genomics Jargon for the Rest of Us

**Dr. Richard Cronn**, Research Geneticist, Pacific Northwest Research Station

## Important Pests of Seed Orchards

**Colin Bonser**, Entomologist, USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection Unit  
**Paul Rhoades**, National Nursery Pest Specialist, USDA Forest Service RNGR Team

## Best Practices for Tree Seed Handling: What happens after I collect?

**Kayla Herriman**, National Seed Specialist, USFS

**Victor Vankus**, Director, USFS National Seed Laboratory (NSL)

## Site Considerations Before Establishing a New Seed Orchard

**Dr. J.B. Jett**, Emeritus Professor, NC State University

## Management Strategies To Optimize Seed Production of Forest Tree Seed

**Dr. J.B. Jett**, Emeritus Professor, NC State University

## Webinar Snapshots

### The progeny test: common gardens that study adaptive variation for selection

- Seed is collected across a broad geographic area (can be range-wide or region-wide).
- Seed origin is tracked to the mother tree



### Module 2: Forward selection

2. Progeny from hundreds of mother trees planted in common garden



1. Select plus trees, collect open-pollinated seed



4. Use remaining trees as a seed orchard



3. Nature does the thinning to ("rogue out") worst trees from worst families



# My White Oak App

The My White Oak App, being developed in collaboration with the University of Kentucky, is designed to help landowners create step-by-step reports about their woodlands from their mobile devices, including practices to support white oak sustainability. Once completed, these reports can be shared directly with local foresters found through the app, allowing both parties to work together on long-term management strategies. While not a full management plan, the report will provide guidance based on user input and national and regional expert recommendations, making it a strong foundation for developing a plan. Reports will also be accessible through a companion website for added convenience.

## Key Features:



### FIND A FORESTER:

Locate foresters near you using an interactive map.



### WOODLAND REPORTS:

Generate detailed reports to share with professionals.



### RESOURCES & FAQs:

Access helpful information and answers to common questions.



# Firewood Scout Site

The Firewood Scout Site is an interactive map and resource, funded by the U.S. Forest Service, that helps people locate and procure firewood from local vendors, promoting sustainable firewood usage and reducing the spread of invasive species. The site shares information on the topic and best practices, and promotes the core message of:

Buy it where you burn it!

## Search for Providers of Firewood by Location

Jim's Firewood 1.7 mi

FireWood Frank 3.8 mi

Lakeland Wood 5.4 mi

## FIREWOOD SCOUT

Buy it where you burn it.

Home

State Resources

FAQ

About

Contact

Add A Business

**Moving firewood long distances can accidentally bring dangerous pests and diseases to your favorite campgrounds.** Please help protect forests and trees. You can make a difference. Buy it where you burn it!

It is important no matter where you are to buy local firewood, buy certified heat treated firewood if available, or gather firewood on site where permitted.

### Locate Firewood

Narrow your search by distance.

Businesses have been included in the Firewood Scout directory for informational

# Forest Products Locator Redesign + Update in Process

ForestProductsLocator.org is an online directory of forest product manufacturers across the U.S. South. Developed by the Services, Utilization, and Marketing Task Force (SUM) of the Southern Group of State Foresters and supported by Southern Regional Extension Forestry, the site was created to unify state-level forest industry directories. It combines directories published by southern state forestry agencies into one regional tool.

Provides a directory of mills or primary forest product companies, which produce lumber, plywood, pulp, paper and other wood products using roundwood logs as a raw material.



## Key Features:

### FOREST MILLS DIRECTORY

Search and view mill details such as location, product type, species group, relative size, and contact information.

### INTERACTIVE MAPS

Users can search via the interactive map to visually locate businesses across the South.

### RELIABLE DATA

Built on surveys conducted by 13 southern state forestry agencies, providing consistent, up-to-date information

### REGIONAL IMPACT

Promotes the use of renewable forest products and supports economic connections across the southern U.S.

### HIGHLY RATED IN GOOGLE SEARCHES!

The screenshot displays the website's interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes 'The Forest Products Network', 'MILL MAP', 'MILL LIST', 'ABOUT US', 'FAQ', 'STATE RESOURCES', and 'ADD YOUR BUSINESS'. Below this is a header with the title 'The Forest Products Network' and a sub-header: 'The mill map allows you to visually locate and drill down to find the mill you're interested in.' The main content area features search filters: 'SEARCH BY MILL NAME' (Mill Name...), 'SEARCH BY RADIUS' (Location..., Radius), 'FILTER BY LOCATION' (State..., County...), and 'FILTER BY TYPE' (Wood Type). A map of the southern United States is shown with several mill locations marked by colored circles (green, yellow, orange) and numerical values (e.g., 200, 80, 30). On the left side, there are three mill detail cards. The first card is for 'Elliot Exports' (10250 Hwy 411 N, Crandall, GA 30711, Species: Softwood, Mill Type: Other). The second card is for 'Coosa Posts' (5757 Alabama Highway, Coosa, GA 30165, Species: Softwood, Mill Type: Post Pole). The third card is for 'DS Smith' (2366-2 Interstate Road, Riceboro, GA 31323, Map This Location). Each card includes a 'MAP' button and a 'STATE RESOURCE PAGE' button.

# eYield

eYield is a decision support system that helps small and medium-sized forest landowners in the southern and eastern U.S. manage their forests more effectively. It offers a suite of research-based tools for projecting future forest conditions, evaluating financial outcomes, and guiding sustainable, efficient management.



*New carbon functionality coming soon!*

SIMULATOR ABOUT EYIELD OUR PARTNERS CONTACT US

## Welcome to eYield

eYield is a model to assist forest landowners in the management of hardwood and natural forests growing in the eastern United States.

eYield will project forest conditions into the future, assess financial implications of management alternatives, and produce reports that guide forest management. Forest simulators include natural (not planted) loblolly pine, slash pine, shortleaf pine, and longleaf pine, upland oak-hickory, yellow-poplar, and eastern white pine.

Hopefully, forest landowners and communities will benefit from the information provided by eYield by improving their decision-making capacity, increasing management efficiency, promoting sustainable and healthy forests, and ensuring sustainable timber supplies.

### User Guide

[Download the User Guide \(pdf\)](#)

Ty Lee Simulation

*Due to differing browser security settings, you may need to right-click on the .dat link, select 'Save As...', and then follow the security prompt in your browser.*

**The information provided on this website is still in its testing phase and is provided on an "as is" and "as available" basis.**

LOAD SCENARIO NEW SCENARIO

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

Southern Regional Extension Forestry

# Apps Created & Maintained

## Forestry Safe Route

Helps personnel in remote areas navigate to the nearest emergency services without cellular service. The app captures the user's location and exports a PDF with directions to the closest hospital, fire department, or police station.

## iFertigate

A fertigation tank mix calculator that helps users determine proper nutrient solutions while warning against harmful chemical combinations that could cause buildup in irrigation systems.

## MyFence

A simple cost calculator designed to help users estimate fencing costs based on factors such as materials, post spacing, and length. The app was developed in response to public demand after a similar online tool was discontinued.

## My White Oak

Designed to help landowners assess white oak presence and receive tailored management recommendations. Still in early development, the tool is being refined in collaboration with stakeholders to better align with landowner needs.



## The Service Forester's Toolkit

Based on the USFS Service Forester's Handbook, this pocket guide has been a go-to resource for foresters and natural resource professionals for over a decade. It provides quick access to essential forest and land measurements, tree data, volume tables, and more. While it's been widely successful, after 10+ years it now needs funding to update the software and ensure compatibility with newer operating systems.

# Websites Created & Maintained

## Firewood Scout

An interactive map that helps users locate local firewood vendors, promoting sustainable firewood usage and reducing the spread of invasive species.

<https://firewoodscout.org/>

## Forestry Webinar Portal

Offers live and on-demand webinars covering diverse topics while providing opportunities to earn continuing education credits. The site currently has 28,000+ subscribers and has nearly 400,000 webinars viewed.

<https://forestrywebinars.net/>

# Websites Created & Maintained

## **Georgia Master Timber Harvester**

A certification program website for timber harvesters. Recent updates include an on-demand certification printing feature to streamline the retrieval for members.

<https://gamth.org/>

## **eYield**

Helps forest landowners in the eastern U.S. manage forests by projecting future conditions, assessing financial impacts, and promoting sustainable, efficient management practices.

<https://eyield.sref.info/>

## **Forest Products Locator**

A directory of forestry-related businesses and services, currently being redeveloped to enhance usability. The platform is being rebuilt using Plone 6 and will function similarly to Firewood Scout.

<https://www.forestproductslocator.org/>

## **Shortleaf Pine Initiative**

<https://shortleafpine.org/>

## **Forest Health**

<https://southernforesthealth.net/>

## **Georgia Master Harvester**

<https://gamth.org/>

## **Community Forestry in the South**

<https://urbanforestrysouth.org/>

## **Timber Tax**

<https://www.timbertax.org/>

## **National Urban & Community Forestry (NUCFAC) websites**

- The NUCFAC Council: <https://nucfac.org/>
- NUCFAC 2025 Action Plan: <https://actionplan.urbanandcommunityforests.org/>
- 2020–2025 Grant Portal: <https://ucfgrants2025.urbanandcommunityforests.org/>
- Grant Review Portal: <https://ucfreview.urbanandcommunityforests.org/>

## **Urban Forestry Learning Module**

<https://elearn.sref.info/>

# Publications & Reports

- *Boby, L. (2023). Creating New Markets is a Team Effort: Building New Connections and Sharing Knowledge in a Multi-State Community of Practice. University of Georgia ProQuest Dissertations & Theses, 2023. 30692762. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2917436668?pq-origsite=gscholar&fromopenview=true&sourcetype=Dissertations%20&%20Theses>*
- *Boby, L., Fawcett, J., Clabo, D., Harriman, H., Maggard, A., Couilliette, B., Kays, L. & McNair, S. (2023). Guidebook for Prescribed Burning in the Southern Region. University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Bulletin 1560. UGA Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources Outreach Publication, WSFNR-23-16A. <https://sref.info/resources/publications/guidebook-for-prescribed-burning-in-the-southern-region>*
  - *Diagrams, tables, and visuals from the Guidebook for Prescribed Burning in the Southern Region: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wEdwhOBW3oRvulKUGRp45Lf8FidFfWDp?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wEdwhOBW3oRvulKUGRp45Lf8FidFfWDp?usp=share_link)*
- *Boby, L., Chappell, D., Preston, D. & S. West (2021). Creating Connections and Synergy for Forestry Economic Development, Analysis and Communication: A Report Summarizing Ideas and Recommendations from the 2020 Forest Economic Contributions Summit. <https://sref.info/articles/creating-connections-and-synergy-for-forestry-economic-development-analysis-and-communication-1>*
- *Report virtual delivery [https://sref.info/articles/extension-education-and-outreach-forestry-and-or-natural-resource-programming-delivery-mode-fees-survey-report/FNR\\_program\\_online\\_fees\\_survey%20report\\_011222.pdf](https://sref.info/articles/extension-education-and-outreach-forestry-and-or-natural-resource-programming-delivery-mode-fees-survey-report/FNR_program_online_fees_survey%20report_011222.pdf)*

## Webinar Series

### **Woodland Stewards Webinar Series**

<https://forestrywebinars.net/sponsor-pages/woodland-stewards>

### **Wood-Based Economic Development Webinar Series**

<https://forestrywebinars.net/sponsor-pages/wood-based-econ-dev>

### **Tree improvement 101 Webinar Series**

<https://forestrywebinars.net/sponsor-pages/trees-101>