

Southern Extension Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Retreat

October 10-11, 2017 | Cheaha State Park, Delta, AL

Proposed Outcomes:

1. A stronger regional network of Extension natural resource professionals at the county, regional, state and multistate level.
2. New skills and techniques for greater reach and impact.
3. A greater understanding of key issues in the region.
4. Shared leadership in the development of regional programming.

Tuesday, October 10th, 2017

8:00 am Welcome and Introductions

The Importance of Extension Programming in Forestry & Natural Resources –
A panel discussion from leadership and partners.

- “An Extension Director’s Perspective”, Director Dr. Gary Lemme, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service.
- “A Natural Resource Dean’s Perspective”, Dean Dr. Janaki Alavalapati, Auburn University’s School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences.
- “A USDA National Program Leader’s Perspective”. Dr. Eric Norland, National Program Leader, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.
- “A Federal Partner’s Perspective”, Dr. George Hernandez, USDA Forest Service, Southern Region.

9:30 am “Capacity and Opportunity: Status of Extension Forestry & Natural Resources in the South”

Dr. William Hubbard, Southern Regional Extension Forestry, Association of Southern Regional Extension Directors

10:00 am Break

10:30 am Professional Development Workshop – Needs Assessments, Program Evaluation and Measuring Impact

Dr. Jay Jayaratne, State Leader for Program Evaluation, North Carolina State University. Dr. John Diaz, Program Evaluation Specialist, The University of Florida, IFAS.

12:00 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Review of key issues and breakout group overview

In this session we will take stock of what we’ve learned in the morning and decide 4 or 5 key discipline/ topic or issue areas to work on and divide accordingly. Each group will have an official SREF facilitator and notetaker. Results of several initiatives and needs assessments have provided an initial list that will be discussed and modified based on attendance:

- Wildland fire needs
- Urban natural resources
- Intergenerational forestland transfer
- Reaching more forest owners through programs like the Master Tree Farmer
- Wood products, bioenergy, wood in use
- Wildlife issues and wildlife management
- Forest health
- Timber taxation/economics/impacts

- 2:00 pm **Begin break out group discussions**
- 3:00 pm **Break**
- 3:30 pm **Continue small group breakout work**
- 4:15 pm **Report out**
- 4:30 pm **Adjourn**
- 5:00 pm **Social**
- 6:00 pm **Dinner and entertainment**
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Wednesday, October 11th, 2017

- 8:00 am **Welcome Back/Reactions to Day 1**
- 8:15 am **Regional and National Updates:**
- 1). The Forest Mentoring Project
 - 2). What is EDEN? How to make EDEN more valuable to the natural resources Extension community and their stakeholders.
 - 3). Others?
- 9:00 am **Strategic Directions Discussions – breakout groups are proposed on the following topics**
(to be vetted by the entire group first):
- 1). County Agent Training & Tools – Some states have had success with various types of county agent training (UGA held FASAT, NCSU holds a graduate level course, etc.). We will discuss the pros and cons of agent based forestry, wildlife, wood products, etc. training courses.
 - 2). High Tech vs. High Touch – What is the proper blend of conducting face-to-face training vs. online training. Are there regional or multi-state solutions? Has anyone found the perfect blend?
 - 3). Utilizing Regional Resources at the State & Local Level – The regional capacity to assist state and local Extension agents has increased dramatically in the last few years. While this assistance has been primarily limited to online resources such as webinars and print-on-demand publications, there exists opportunity to strengthen the regional-state-county relationship. What are these opportunities and how do we capture them.
 - 4). Other?
- 10:00 am **Break**
- 10:30 am **Report Outs**
- 11:00 am **Next steps and opportunities to continue networks, professional development and collaboration opportunities (ANREP, annual unit leaders' meeting, etc.)**
- 12:00 pm **Adjourn and safe travels.**