



April 16, 2014

TREE COUNTRY SC

From the desk of...

STATE FORESTER
Gene Kodama



Good day,

If you read our previous Bulletin from March 26th, you will recall that in that edition, I did not provide an update on operational, financial, and political issues as I usually do. Instead, I focused entirely on concerns for the high number of accidents and injuries that the Commission was having both on and off the job. The agency had been averaging over one incident per month even though wildfire season continued to be mild. Unfortunately, this trend of safety incidents has intensified with a total of twelve work accidents since February 2, 2014 and four so far this April, 2014. So, I am writing again about our need to focus more on safety. We can do better than this and must do better for the sake of our employees and their families. And, again, let's remember that statistics do not lie. A large number of minor incidents will eventually lead to a major incident involving serious injury or worse. So, let's all work harder together and get this negative trend stopped.



Best regards,

Gene



State Forester Gene Kodama speaks with the Women in the Outdoors hunt participants at Niederhof Forestry Center. (see page 8)

NOTE: The next Bulletin will be May 7 .

FOREST INVENTORY & ANALYSIS—Byron Rominger

Assisting with Research Study

The Forestry Commission Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program is assisting in a study from the Pacific Northwest Research Station titled: "An Historically Consistent and Broadly Applicable MRV System Based on Lidar Sampling and Landsat Time-series (Tested in the U.S. and applied to the U.S. NGHGI reporting system)." The study is a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) funded research project to develop a historically-consistent and broadly applicable carbon Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system based on lidar sampling and Landsat time series data with six study sites distributed throughout the lower 48 states (OR, CO, MN, NJ/PA, ME, and SC). The objective of the study is to develop a MRV accounting system that could be used by developing countries within the context of the United Nations (UN) REDD Programme. The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD).

Sampling with lidar strips, supported by a smaller set of plots may be an attractive alternative that is highly relevant to many REDD countries, as in the use of Landsat for disturbance monitoring. While the U.S. is not a REDD country, it is party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has a need for similar U.S. National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (NGHGI). The various components of this MRV system will be tested where the best data are available, such as FIA, for analyzing the uncertainty contributions for the several system components they will test, including the influence of FIA plot location error on the uncertainty of biomass estimates. In doing so, they hope to develop and test a biomass estimation approach that, if implemented, would provide REDD countries a practical set of workflows for integrated monitoring of current and historical baseline carbon stocks and trends. Additionally, with the improvements expected from including Landsat-derived disturbance history into the method used for the U.S. NGHGI, this research would provide NASA and Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) with a collaborative role in the process of reporting U.S. forest carbon estimates to the UNFCCC.

The SCFC FIA Program's role in this study is to collect highly -accurate GPS coordinates on 50 FIA plots in South Carolina to evaluate the influence (if any) of plot location error on the overall carbon estimation. The Florence and Walterboro FIA crews are currently collecting these coordinates using a survey grade Javad Triumph-1 GPS receiver on the Coastal Plain of South Carolina.



Wesley Brunson and Michael Broom (Florence FIA) setting up survey grade GPS receiver.



Wesley Brunson and Michael Broom collecting accurate GPS coordinates on a FIA plot.

Quote of the Week

Time is what we want most, but what we use worst.
William Penn

NEW EMPLOYEES

We would like to welcome three new employees to the Coastal Region who started working on April 2nd.

Gregor Wilke is the new FIA Forester in the Coastal Region. Gregor lives in Summerville and has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an Associate's Degree of Arts and Science from University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac. He previously served as a research assistant at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was a forest technician with Sierra Pacific Industries and an urban forestry intern for the city of Milwaukee.



Gregor Wilke

Gregor has two brothers and two sisters in Wisconsin and enjoys working on his 1978 Pontiac Firebird Formula. He also enjoys videography, hiking and traveling.



John Wilson

John Wilson is a new Forest Technician in the Edisto Unit. John and his wife live in Aiken and graduated from Midland Valley High School in Langley, SC. He previously worked at the Aiken County Landfill. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and trapping.



Frankie Johnson

Frankie Johnson is a new Forest Technician in the Santee Unit. Frankie lives in Holly Hill and is married with three daughters. Frankie is a member of the Holly Hill Fire Department and enjoys hunting and fishing.

National Telecommunicators Week

Take the time this week to thank your dispatchers for all they do for our agency. They aren't recognized often enough for the long hours, weekends, holidays, and nights they put in (rain or shine) to ensure our response to emergencies, texting of weather and other events. In addition, they provide us with the assurance that someone is watching over us. We are very appreciative of the dedicated work they do, recognizing that they play a critical role in carrying out the agency's mission.

Each year, the second full week of April is dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators. It was first conceived by Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa County (Calif.) Sheriff's Office in 1981 and was observed only at that agency for three years. Members of the Virginia and North Carolina chapters of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) became involved in the mid-1980s. By the early 1990s, the national APCO organization convinced Congress of the need for a formal proclamation. Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) introduced what became H.J. Res. 284 to create "National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week." According to Congressional procedure, it was introduced twice more in 1993 and 1994, and then became permanent, without the need for yearly introduction.

The official name of the week when originally introduced in Congress in 1991 was "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week", later shortened to "National Telecommunicators Week." The Congressional resolution also stated there were more than "500,000 telecommunications specialists," although other estimates put the number of dispatchers at just over 200,000.

Of course, you don't need NTW to honor your dispatchers for excellence!



Coastal Dispatch

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

JOB TITLE: RE-ADVERTISEMENT Forestry Technician II

LOCATION: Chesterfield County, South Carolina

CLOSING DATE: Continuous

AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MIN: \$25,627 **AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MAX:** \$33,000

THIS IS A RE-ADVERTISEMENT. PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT RE-APPLY. YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSTING. Assists the Assistant Forest Director in managing the timber, wildlife, and public on Sand Hills State Forest. Assist with the marking and marketing of timber; inspects completed work. Responsible for logging operations on the forest. Assist with forest management activities including but not limited to prescribed burning, wildfire suppression, wildlife and recreation management and general maintenance.

MINIMUM AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: A high school diploma and two (2) years experience in forest fire control, law enforcement, forestry management or nursery operations. An Associate Degree in forestry or natural resources may be substituted for the required work experience. Must pass initial physical fitness test that requires a two (2) mile walk carrying a 25 lb pack in 30 minutes. Firefighter registration with the State Fire Marshal's Office, criminal records check and drug test are required.

JOB TITLE: READVERTISEMENT - Program Coordinator II (Forest Resource Analyst)

LOCATION: Richland County, South Carolina

CLOSING DATE: Continuous

AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MIN: \$37,945

AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MAX: \$70,204

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

THIS IS A RE-ADVERTISEMENT. PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT RE-APPLY. YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSTING. Serves as the South Carolina Forestry Commission's lead in forest resource analysis and wood products utilization and marketing. Conducts comprehensive, in-depth forest resource data analyses in response to forest resource development projects and for reporting purposes. Maintains primary and secondary wood product mill directories for internal and external use. Surveys primary forest product mills in cooperation with the US Forest Service Timber Products Output program. Assists with marketing SC forest products both domestically and internationally. Assists with data analyses and reporting for special projects, including economic impact studies and timber supply studies.

MINIMUM AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

A bachelor's degree and two years relevant work experience in forest resource analysis.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

A bachelor's degree in forestry from a college or university accredited by the Society of American Foresters and a master's degree in forest economics. Experience in database management and computer programming.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Must be willing to travel overnight, both domestically and internationally, as needed.

Applicants who previously applied for this position do not need to reapply and will be considered for this posting.

BLACK RIVER UNIT—Ron Holt

Ordering Belt Buckles

I am getting ready to place an order for more SCFC belt buckles. I will **finalize the order** on **April 18th**, so let me know if you would like one. I will contact the ones I have on my list and let them know the exact payment.

Let me know if you would like to order one.

Ron Holt
Black River Unit Forester
SC Forestry Commission
596 I M Graham Road
Kingstree, SC 29556
Office 843-382-8761
Cell 843-992-6417



HELP NEEDED FOR UPCOMING WOODLAND CLINIC

The Woodland Clinic, formerly sponsored by the (now disbanded) Ninety Six District RC&D Council, is alive and well. The Woodland Clinic is now a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, seeking to carry on the popular forestry skills competition for high school students.



This year's Woodland Clinic will be held on Thursday, **April 29** in the same location as in 2013 - the Connie Maxwell Children's Home farm in Greenwood. As in the past, volunteers are needed to help run the events, coach the students, score papers, etc.

For those not familiar with the Woodland Clinic, the competition is a round-robin for high school students with four events: compass and pacing, tree and forest pest identification, forestry tools and equipment, and tree measurement (with Biltmore sticks). Following the round robin, a "Lumberjack Race" is held, involving school competition against the clock in crosscut saw, bow saw, and log handling.

If you would like to help or have questions, please contact SCFC retiree Jimmy Walters at 864-992-0252 or email at jimmy.3t@gmail.com.

Truck Weight Limit Extended

As a result of the winter storm in February and the importance of salvaging the damaged timber, Governor Haley issued Executive Order 2014-24 reauthorizing the waiver of weight, hours of service and other limitations for trucks transporting timber and timber-related products.

This Order took effect when the current order, EO 2014-21, expired on April 12th at 11:59 p.m. The new Order expires on **May 12, 2014 at 11:59 p.m.**

Thank you Governor Haley.



URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY—Lowe Sharpe

Urban Foresters Attend Green Infrastructure Workshop

Frances Waite, Lois Edwards, Lowe Sharpe and Debbie Dickinson (retired SCFC) attended a one-day Green Infrastructure (GI) workshop on April 11th in Raleigh presented by the Green Infrastructure Center, Inc. of Charlottesville, VA. The purpose of the workshop was to familiarize urban planners with the benefits of GI and how they can better plan for population growth while conserving the natural features of the landscape. Green Infrastructure is made up of the interconnected network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habits, and other natural areas; greenways, parks, and other conservation lands; working farms, ranches and forests; and wilderness and other open spaces that support native species, maintain natural ecological processes, sustain air and water resources and contribute to the health and quality of life (McDonald, Benedict, and O’Conner, 2005).

Participants were divided into groups of 4 or 5 and given maps and data to develop GI plans that could be incorporated into a county’s comprehensive plan. Each group presented the plans to the entire assembly of participants and explained the rationale and how GI would accentuate the county’s comprehensive plan by improving the quality of life and often saving money through smarter, early planning.

Participants also learned to identify the important green infrastructure assets, propose corridors of greenways to create networks and ultimately propose a plan. Much emphasis was given to the importance of “conservation before mitigation”. In other words, we learned that growing communities have many natural assets on which to capitalize, thereby avoiding the delay and expense of mitigation.

Participants were presented the 6 steps for Green Infrastructure Planning:

1. Set Your Goals
2. Review Data
3. Map Your Community’s Ecological and Cultural Assets
4. Risk Assessment (which natural features are at risk from development)
5. Rank GI Assets
6. Implement Opportunities (park planning, zoning, seek easements, etc.)

These six steps are the basis for any community to utilize green infrastructure in their planning process. The SC Forestry Commission was recently awarded a USFS grant to conduct a similar workshop and ultimately develop a working guide for a developing county in SC (to be determined).



Lois Edwards explains the Green Infrastructure plan developed by participants in the workshop.



Frances Waite and (retiree) Debbie Dickinson developing options for a Green Infrastructure plan at the workshop.

TECHNOLOGY—Jeff Baumann

Migration to Windows 7 Continues

Microsoft released its final security update to its 12 year old operating system Windows XP and productivity suite Office 2003 on April 8, 2014. Windows XP or Office 2003 **will not** stop working or force users to upgrade. Microsoft will no longer release fixes or security updates for any future vulnerabilities in these programs. It is estimated that 27% of the computers worldwide still run on Windows XP. It is still the second most widely used PC operating system in the world.

The IT Section with the assistance of the Regional Communications Managers will be busy rolling out the remaining new Windows 7 computers over the next several weeks. Scott Drafts is in the process of setting up forty (40) Windows 7 desktops (see photo) slated for administrative, state forest, nursery/tree improvement, and other support personnel. After that, there may be a few secondary Windows XP laptops that will need to be replaced to complete the migration.



Forty new desktop computers being updated by the IT staff.

Employees with Windows XP computers need not panic. Nothing will immediately change after April 8 if you take or have been taking security seriously.

- Make sure you install all the Windows updates for XP or Office 2003
- Keep your antivirus software up-to-date
- Make sure your Internet browser and relevant plug-ins (like Java) are updated
- Backup any critical data
- Do not open suspicious or unexpected email attachments
- Do not click on embedded links in suspicious emails

This is all the basic stuff you should have been doing, but it's even more important until we upgrade you to Windows 7 and Office 2010 or Office 2013.

When you receive a new Windows 7 computer and after you are sure all your data has been transferred to it, turn in your Windows XP computer(s) to the IT Section for proper disposal.

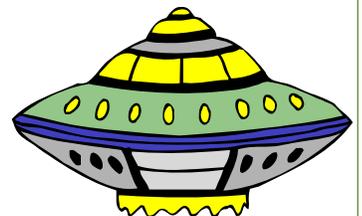
A FEW THOUGHTS...

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

Have you noticed since everyone has a cell phone these days no one talks about seeing UFOs like they used to?

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?



Women in the Outdoors Turkey Hunt

The South Carolina Forestry Commission hosted a Women in the Outdoors turkey hunt at Niederhof Forestry Center on April 8 - 9, 2014 in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf).

Women in the Outdoors (WITO) is a program of the NWTf which provides opportunities for women to gain experience in the outdoors. On this hunt 3 women from the WITO program joined one representing the SC National Guard on an afternoon and a morning hunt. All four ladies had never been turkey hunting before and were hoping to harvest their first bird.

After presentations from State Forester Gene Kodama, Scott Phillips, Chris King, Pete Stuckey, and Gary Peters (NWTf) the group patterned their guns to ensure accuracy. After a safety briefing the ladies drew for guides and areas and began their hunt. Guiding were Gene Kodama, Scott Phillips, Pete Stuckey, and Kip Terry.

Unfortunately, the turkeys outsmarted the hunters but the group had fun and enjoyed being outdoors and seeing a lot of other wildlife. After watching 3 birds roost for the evening, Nancy King was excited to go back the following morning. She exclaimed, "It's like Christmas, I can't wait til tomorrow morning!" Beth Warren enjoyed the "hunt" and saw wildlife she had never seen before while hunting and hiking with Gene. She said "I could do this forever." Robin Kenney commented on Niederhof, "I love this property, it is absolutely beautiful. I saw deer and turkeys. I could sit out here all day."

Everyone involved in the hunt enjoyed the fellowship and shared a lot of laughs even though no birds were harvested.



Hunt participants.



Rebecca Barnard patterns her gun.



Pete Stuckey shows Nancy King some features on her gun.



Robin Kenney gets ready to shoot with Scott Phillips' help.



Scott Phillips helps Beth Warren find her dominant eye.



Scott Phillips and Kip Terry explain chokes to Beth Warren and Nancy King.

MANCHESTER STATE FOREST—Harvey Belser Annual Cleanup Day

Manchester State Forest held their annual Cleanup Day on Saturday, March 29th. We had 35 volunteers and staff participating in spite of the rain that morning. Over 6 tons of trash was collected, not including approximately 200 tires and 50 televisions. A big "Thank You" goes out to all who spent their Saturday helping clean up the forest.



Hundreds of tires and a lot of televisions are being thrown out on Manchester.



Volunteers and staff empty trailers of trash.



Some of the volunteers with the trash they collected during the event.



The staff provided lunch to all who helped during the cleanup.

Toothpick Uses (Part 2 of 3)

These tiny wood products can be a giant help around the house. Here are some unexpected ways to put them to use:

Touch up paint. Dip the end of a toothpick in paint to dab small amounts of color onto tiny nicks and scratches. Its small size and precise point is perfect for detail work.

Mark the end of a roll of tape. Wrap the last inch of packing tape around a toothpick before storing so that you can easily find the end.

Create a distressed paint finish. Drag the end of a toothpick back and forth over a just-painted, still-wet surface to get an aged look.

Tackle bacterial hot spots. Soak a toothpick in rubbing alcohol and use it to clean between the buttons of your remote control. (A 2011 study found that the remote is one of the germiest things in your home.) You can clean your cell phone and keyboard buttons too.

TRAINING—Leslie Woodham S-130 Field Day

A field day for S-130 (Firefighter Training) was held in Georgetown last week at Horry/Georgetown Technical College. Thirty-one natural resource students completed the hands-on portion of the class.

Agency instructors were Terry Cook, Ron Holt, Darryl Jones, Eric West and Leslie Woodham.

Terry Cook discusses safety with the students.



Ron Holt explains wildland firefighting.

Eric West demonstrates hand tools used on the fireline.



HISTORICAL FIRE DATA FOR MONTH OF APRIL

YEAR	FIRES	ACRES
1976	1,966 ¹	41,361.6
1977	796	2,706.3
1978	1,661	10,907.2
1979	927	3,799.5
1980	627	2,230.6
1981	1,159	5,850.3
1982	797	4,653.1
1983	386	1,098.8
1984	281	1,029.0
1985	1,728	20,759.6
1986	1,529	8,367.0
1987	718	3,355.0
1988	879	4,014.9
1989	479	2,456.9
1990	658	2,491.4
1991	192	702.9

1992	931	6,299.1
1993	606	4,190.2
1994	700	3,638.2
1995	855	4,003.7
1996	690	4,959.1
1997	581	3,345.1
1998	211	882.9
1999	813	4,988.0
2000	406	1,523.2
2001	772	7,900.7
2002	582	6,468.2
2003	98 ²	422.6 ²
2004	638	4,604.6
2005	384	2,701.0
2006	642	4,836.3
2007	573	3,669.4
2008	188	921.7
2009	215	21,323.7
2010	406	2,227.7
2011	207	1,772.9

2012	198	1,145.1
2013	146	754.0
2014*	262	2,024.6

10 Year Average	360	4,395.6
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¹Highest on Record for Month of April

²Lowest on Record for Month of April

*as of April 16, 2014

Most acreage burned in the month of April was in 1950 with 65,953.6 acres burned from 1,642 fires.

SERVICE AWARDS for April

Mandy Burge

Piedmont

10 Years State and Agency Service

AROUND THE STATE

Monthly Meetings in the Edisto Unit



Neal Murdaugh, Pete Stuckey, Bryan Smith, Charlie Boles, Don Mixon, Paul Deloach, Terrell Smith, Rusty Barker, Lowell Parnell, and Tyler Greiner of the Edisto Unit.



Supervisor Danny Collins and his staff during his April meeting at the Walterboro office.



Neal Murdaugh and Charlie Boles make copies during their monthly meeting at the Hampton office.

REMINDER to Employees: I just wanted to remind all employees to please send in your photos and information of events going on in your area regarding the SCFC...any type of recognition ceremony, important meetings, employee fun, and especially fires. I only want to make the Bulletin the best I can and it's hard to do that without information from ALL of the offices. Please keep this in mind and send your information and photos in. Thanks! Send them to: mjohnson@scfc.gov.

SCFC Puzzle—Find the Words

H E Y N O I T A E R C E R E
 U G B K A E R B E R I F L H
 N E E M A D E B E L S O J C
 Y N T M P E F Z B I R R T T
 L E A I R I O U L S O E S A
 L K T N A D R S R A T S V P
 O O S S H N E S S F A T E S
 L D E E C E S E T A R R R I
 B A V C R W T R R E E Y A D
 O M R T A I A I S L P M H I
 L A A S M Z T F H G O U S S
 S W H B N S I D E N O C T E
 C C E A E T O L P O C L S E
 F R B R S E N I P L O W O D
 C R O H A R D W O O D S C L
 U F X D K E S I W E R I F I
 S E V A E L N S T R A W O N
 F U N O I S S I M M O C L G

BMP
 BURN
 COMMISSION
 CONE
 COOPERATORS
 COST SHARE
 DEER
 DISPATCH
 DOZER
 FIA
 FIREBREAK
 FIREWISE
 FORESTRY
 GENE KODAMA
 HARDWOODS
 HARVEST
 INSECTS
 LEAVES
 LOBLOLLY
 LOGS
 LONGLEAF
 PINES
 PLOT
 PLOW
 RCW
 RECREATION
 REFORESTATION
 SAW
 SCFC
 SEEDLING
 STATE
 STRAW
 TEAM
 TIMBER
 TREES
 URBAN
 WILDFIRES

Interesting Facts on Operating Systems

For Computers:

Windows 7 is the #1 operating system on computers and has 47% of the market.
 Windows XP -- 29%
 Windows 8 -- 6%
 Windows 8.1 - 4%
 Mac OS X 10.9 - 3.5%
 Windows Vista - 3%
 Linux - 1.5%
 Earlier Versions of Mac OS X - 4% (Mac OS X overall - 7.5%)

For Tablets:

Apple iOS - 48%
 Android - 43%
 Windows - 7.5%

Smart Phones:

Android -- 79%
 Apple iOS - 14%
 Windows - 3.3%
 BlackBerry - 2.7%



Other Forestry News

Virginia Announces New State Forester

Bettina Ring was recently appointed as the State Forester of Virginia.

Bettina Ring most recently served as Senior Vice President of Family Forests at the American Forest Foundation where she was responsible for overseeing the American Tree Farm System®. Ms. Ring has a long history in the conservation and forestry sectors, having spent 14 years at the Virginia Department of Forestry, departing the agency in 2001 as Deputy State Forester. In her role, Ms. Ring was responsible for operations, and helped to develop and implement a new mission, vision and strategic plan for the department.

In the years following her Department of Forestry service, Ms. Ring held various leadership positions within nonprofit organizations focusing on natural resources management and conservation, including the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts, The Wilderness Land Trust and the Bay Area Open Space Council. Ring holds a Bachelors degree in Forestry and Wildlife from Virginia Tech and a Masters degree in Business Administration from James Madison University.



Gene Kodama with Bettina as she presented him with an American Tree Farm Support Award in 2012.

North Carolina Announces New State Forester

Dave Lane was recently appointed to the Deputy Director/State Forester position in North Carolina.

David accepted the Deputy Director/State Forester position with the NC Forest Service effective Monday, April 14, 2014. David brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with him to his new position. He held the Forest Protection Division Director position for the last 10 years.

Charleston Named Recipient of TD Green Streets Grant

TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®, and the Arbor Day Foundation announced the winners of TD Green Streets, a grant program supporting innovation in urban forestry. Each \$20,000 grant will fund projects in underserved communities, including the purchase of trees, tree planting, maintenance costs and educational activities.

Along with TD's flagship volunteer program, TD Tree Days, TD Green Streets is a component of TD Forests, a North American initiative that helps protect critical forest habitats equal to the amount of paper the bank uses each year. Together, these programs underscore the bank's commitment to forest protection and stewardship, and are a direct investment in the health of our urban tree canopy.

To be eligible for a TD Green Streets grant, qualified municipalities were required to be current Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA®-designated communities within TD Bank's United States footprint. Tree City USA® is the nation's premier urban and community forestry program, providing a foundation for effective, well-organized community tree care.

The following municipalities were awarded TD Green Streets grants:

Bronx, NY	Charleston, SC	Chelsea, MA	Easton, PA	Hartford, CT
Hoboken, NJ	Miami, FL	North Hempstead, NY	Tampa, FL	Worcester, MA

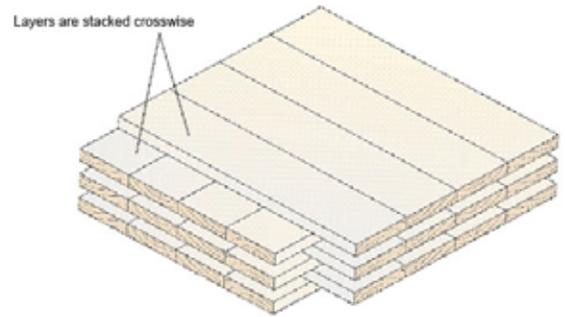
White House Easter Egg Gift Box Certified to the SFI® Standard

The National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks, has selected to package the official 2014 White House Easter Egg in a gift box made from paperboard certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Standard. The decision by the National Park Foundation to package the commemorative White House Easter Eggs in paperboard sourced from responsibly managed forests highlights the importance of the conservation of American forests. The recognition made by the White House in support of sustainably certified forest products is not only a great privilege for SFI, but sends a clear message nationwide to invest in our forests and forest-based communities.

Bringing Wood Back to Market

Much of the new push for wood in large buildings has its genesis in Austria, where timber has always been a major industry. Even more so than in the United States, however, concrete and steel dominate Austrian residential architecture, forcing the wood industry to find new applications for its product.

One solution, developed in the mid-1990s, was a product called cross-laminated timber (CLT) -- essentially low-to-medium-grade dry timber, stacked at right angles and glued. Because the grains of the individual pieces are set against each other, CLT can resist pressure from all sides and can be fabricated to any specified dimensions.



CLT was originally created for business purposes but was quickly seized on by Green and other architects who recognized its potential ecological benefits. Coinciding with the emergence of CLT, the Canadian province of British Columbia had been hit with the worst outbreak of mountain pine beetles on record, and the architects saw the new product as a possible use for the millions of beetle-killed trees that might otherwise decompose and become a carbon source.



Have a Happy Easter!



South Carolina State Employee
DISCOUNT WEEK!
 Tuesday, May 6 - Sunday, May 11

Cotton Mill EXCHANGE
 South Carolina STATE MUSEUM
 301 Gervais Street, Columbia • 803.898.4967
 First Floor, Lobby

S.C. State Employees with a valid I.D. get
10% OFF
 in the State Museum store!

State Employees who are also
 State Museum Members receive an
EXTRA 10% OFF!

No museum admission needed to shop.

Become a State Museum
 member and SAVE!
 Call 803.898.4937 or visit scmuseum.org
 Discount does not apply to clearance items.

South Carolina State Employee
DISCOUNT Week!

Tuesday, May 6 – Sunday, May 11

Cottonmill Exchange

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State Employees who are also State Museum
Members receive an

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Become a State Museum member and SAVE!

Call 803.898.4937 or visit scmuseum.org.
Museum admission not required to shop.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

"Burning Bush"



The church sign says "God send a burning bush" and he did. In this photo from Piedmont West forester Trey Cox, a prescribed burn was done on April 6th, across Highway 28 from the church in Anderson County providing more than one burning bush.

Please send in your funny, scenic or interesting photos to mjohnson@scfc.gov.

Retiree News

Retiree **Jasper Fowler** passed away on April 13th. "Jap" was a Greenville County warden who was well liked and very prominent in his community.

Retiree Tradition—It began with annual fishing trips to the "cow pasture" at Russellville and has continued for 48 years.

The "Sand Hills Gang" (**Larry Barr, Rhett Bickley, Paul Blessing, Dean Carson, and Rodger Hagwood**) gathered for a reunion on March 29th. This group started working together at Sand Hills State Forest in 1966. A special bond was created among them and they have remained close friends over the years. After lunch at "Shealy's" the group met at Dean and Lorraine Carson's home for dessert and reminiscing about control burns, forest fires, timber marking, fishing, hunting, and constant "get-togethers".

Larry "Candy" Barr is no longer with them, but his memory will always be a part of the group and many tales were told about his wonderful sense of humor and contributions at Sand Hills. Larry's wife Martha did attend. Plans are being made to celebrate 50 years in 2016.

If you have any news on retirees, please send it to me at mjohnson@scfc.gov. We'd love to hear how they are doing.



Pictured: Rodger Hagwood, Rhett Bickley, Paul Blessing, and Dean Carson.

Fire Weather Outlook



Southern Area: Below normal significant wildland fire potential is expected for April and May while June and July are expected to be near normal.

Conditions in the Southern Area are relatively moist overall due to a higher frequency storm cycle this winter. Light long-term drought exists in areas west of the Mississippi with the Texas Panhandle seeing the driest conditions. No drought risks are expected east of the Mississippi with the only worsening area covering the western half of Texas to the Trans Pecos.

Relatively high storm frequency with periodic rainfall is expected to continue across much of the South based on forecast climate trends. Exceptions to this will be over a smaller region from southern South Carolina through northeast Florida.

In the Southeast fuels are significantly wetter than would be expected this time of year.

April

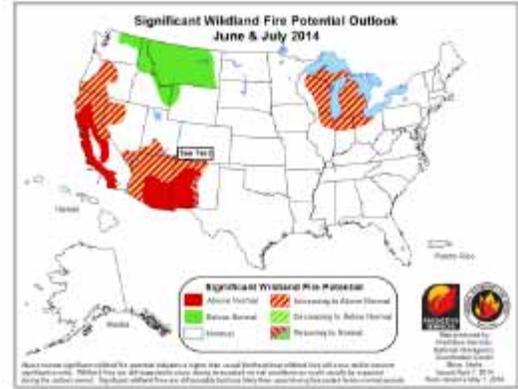
Above normal significant fire potential will continue over portions of southern California; the central Plains from southeastern Colorado to Iowa and northern Missouri; and southwestern and south central Alaska.

Below normal significant fire potential will develop over most of the Ohio, Tennessee, and lower Mississippi Valleys, the central Gulf Coast; eastern Texas and eastern Oklahoma. The Canadian border region from northern Minnesota to Maine will also have below normal fire potential.

May

Above normal significant fire potential will expand over portions of southern, central and northern California; and over most of western Alaska.

Above normal fire potential will increase in the Southwest and decrease over the central Plains.

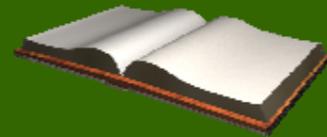


Current Fire Numbers for South Carolina

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

Time Period	APRIL		JULY-APR		FISCAL YEAR	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
5 Year Average	234	5,444.7	1,928	16,463.0	2,145	17,751.4
10 Year Average	360	4,395.6	2,299	16,014.5	2,605	17,747.7
Current FY ¹	262	2,024.6	1,495	7,145.5	1,495	7,145.5

¹To date for current fiscal year



The History Corner

NOW AND THEN

For the next few Bulletins I will be comparing old and recent photos of areas around the agency and state. Our state has changed tremendously since most of us were born, and the agency has drastically changed since it was created in 1927. Enjoy the changes!

If you have any photos you would like to share, just send them to me!

Georgetown Parades



Enclosed D5 cab unit in the 2013 Georgetown Fire Prevention Parade



Ranger truck in the 1955 Georgetown Timber Festival Parade.

The Forestry Commission has been represented in parades all over the state throughout the years. The town of Georgetown has always been a very active town in the forest industry and used to hold a 3-day Timber Festival in the 1950's which the Forestry Commission regularly attended.



South Carolina Forestry Commission
Employee—Weekly News Bulletin

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