



July 16, 2014

## TREE COUNTRY SC

*From the desk of...*

**STATE FORESTER**  
**Gene Kodama**



**Good day,**

***I hope you are all having a good summer. "Time flies" as we sometimes say, and we are now past mid-July. People are already planning for school to restart, and time available for vacations is getting shorter.***

***We have also entered the new 2014-2015 fiscal year as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, and are working with a new state funds budget. We were once again successful in acquiring additional agency funding thanks to our Governor's office and the General Assembly. We requested the restoration of 31 positions this year of the approximately 100 we lost during the economic downturn, and \$5 million to accelerate firefighting equipment replacement beyond Act 271's annual equipment funding that we receive. Additional funding was received for 11 new positions and \$2 million for equipment replacement above Act 271 funding. Filling the 11 positions, other existing vacancies and 7 unfunded positions provided for State Forests, will bring staffing back to 349. Staffing in 2008 was 380 and dropped to 280 after three years of budget cuts. So, funding is now adequate to replace 69% of the employees lost during the downturn, and the Commission can be staffed at 92% of the 2008 staffing level. And, the number of manned dozer firefighting units will be restored to about 150 which is 94% of the goal of 160 units. This is great progress, and our agency will be much better able to protect the forest resource and the public***



*New fire plows purchased to replace old ones.*

*(Continued on page 2)*

**NOTE:** The next Bulletin will be July 30.

**from wildfires and help develop the state's forest resource and the almost 100,000 jobs it supports.**

**We are now working on the 2015-2016 fiscal year budget, which will be due to the Governor's office around October 1<sup>st</sup>. We will continue to request funding to restore lost positions and to speed up replacement of old equipment with a focus on replacing all open cab dozers as quickly as possible. Since the agency is getting close to reaching its goaled firefighting capacity, funding will now be requested to begin replacing positions in addition to firefighting that were lost during budget cutting years. Funding will be sought to restore positions and operating funds needed to properly address the state's forest management needs, forest product market development, Forest Inventory Analysis, Best Management Practices, information security, nursery and tree improvement, and forest landowner assistance.**

**South Carolina's forest industry is doing well and will continue to recover with an improving economy. The Forestry Commission is now better positioned to support the industry and the public and will continue to seek adequate funding to meet its dual mission of protecting and developing the state's wonderful forest resource.**

**Best regards,**

**Gene**



*New transports (above) and pickups (below) purchased with equipment money are to be "fitted" for firefighting.*



## *Quote of the Week*

**Hard work spotlights the character in people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all.**

Sam Ewing

## CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

**JOB TITLE:** Public Information Director II

**CLOSING DATE:** Continuous

**AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MIN:** \$47,092.00 **AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MAX:** \$72,000.00

**LOCATION:** Richland County, South Carolina

**JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:** Under limited supervision, directs, plans and develops communication strategies and long-range public information, marketing, and educational programs for the South Carolina Forestry Commission/Division of Communication and Public Information (CPI) designed to enhance the agency's and forestry's image while promoting the agency's mission and goals. This position has the lead role in communication and public information for the agency. Coordinates media interest in the agency, prepares appropriate responses to media requests, coordinates FOIA requests/responses; responsible for agency public relation activities. Prepares news releases, articles, scripts, speeches, official letters, and responds to public relation requests. Ensures articulation of the agency's desired image and position. Fosters and maintains effective relationships with the news media, forestry associations/organizations, federal, state, and other government entities, general public, and other external sources.

**MINIMUM AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:** A bachelor's degree and seven (7) years related to the development and dissemination of informational material to include supervisory experience.

**JOB TITLE:** RE-ADVERTISEMENT Forester I - Forest Inventory and Analysis

**CLOSING DATE:** 07/17/14 at 11:59 PM

**AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MIN:** \$32,787.00 **AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MAX:** \$34,426.00

**LOCATION:** Colleton County, South Carolina

**JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:** THIS IS A RE-ADVERTISEMENT. PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT RE-APPLY. YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSTING. Records forest inventory and health monitoring data on forest inventory plots with a degree of accuracy as required by the U.S. Forest Service. Works on a two-person forestry-crew locating forest inventory plots and recording inventory and health monitoring data. Assists in determining ownership and obtaining permissions from the owner to enter property where plots are located.

**MINIMUM AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:** A bachelor's degree in forestry from a college or university accredited by the Society of American Foresters. Must successfully pass the U.S. Forest Service Forest, Forest Inventory and Analysis certification field exam within the first year of employment. Applicants are required to attach a college/university transcript.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:** This position office is located in Walterboro, SC.

**JOB TITLE:** Mechanic III

**CLOSING DATE:** 07/24/14 at 11:59 PM

**AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MIN:** \$26,139.00 **AGENCY HIRING RANGE - MAX:** \$37,520.00

**LOCATION:** Colleton County, South Carolina

**JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:** Performs skilled routine and general maintenance to automotive and fire suppression equipment, such as trucks, tractors (diesel and gas powered), and miscellaneous equipment. Pulls engines and transmissions, rebuilds engines, replaces wheel seals, rotates tires, changes undercarriage parts on bulldozers, replaces bed boards on low boy trailers and other miscellaneous duties. Conducts diagnostic testing and identifies problems to determine vehicle and equipment malfunctions; repairs vehicles and heavy equipment in the repair shop and during service calls. Performs welding activities.

**MINIMUM AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:** A high school diploma and two (2) years of work experience directly related to the area of employment to include automotive and equipment repairs, diesel engines, heavy equipment and light duty vehicles. Welding experience is required. Requires satisfactory completion of the written CDL test before employment.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:** Applicant has a Commercial Driver's License, Class A. Must be able to lift a minimum of 50 pounds and respond to service calls after hours and on weekends. Overnight travel may be required for large fire incidents in the state that require a mechanic on duty. Out of state travel may be required for Southeastern fire incidents.

## **FIREWISE—Steve Moore**

### **Post Fire Strike Team Training**

Last week Drake Carroll, Lowe Sharpe, Dena Jacob, Herb Nicholson and Steve Moore attended the Post Fire Strike Team Training in Austin, TX. There were six states involved in this training: Texas, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Oklahoma, and North Carolina. These are the first teams that have completed this training where you go into a community that has been burned over to try and determine why homes were burned and if Firewise principles were used, looking at construction, etc. Teams make recommendations as to what can be done to help prevent homes from burning in the future. These teams are made up of 5 members. Not only will we use our team in SC to determine why homes burned, but they can be deployed to assist other states with a large fire incident. Texas has been using their teams since the Bastrop Fire that destroyed over 1600 homes and received a redesign grant to provide the training.



*Drake Carroll, Lowe Sharpe, Dena Jacob, Herb Nicholson, and Steve Moore attend Post Fire Strike Team Training.*

## **Black River Tabletop Exercise**

Black River Unit Forester Ron Holt occasionally makes his monthly meetings a learning experience by conducting sand tabletop exercises. Using sand and props, Ron introduces different fire scenarios to firefighters and puts them in a supervisory role to learn suppression tactics and to help understand the big picture of what is going on at a fire. This forces the employees out of their comfort zone in jobs they don't normally perform. Senior firefighters also give input from their experiences to help new firefighters learn.



*Ron Holt sets the scene for new forest technician Brad Jones.*



*Brad Jones places units according to the fire situation.*



*Unit personnel look on and share their experiences during the exercise.*

## AROUND THE STATE

### Festival of Stars in Ninety Six

On Saturday, June 28th Piedmont Supervisor Robert Jones and forest technician Buddy Gunther attended the Festival of Stars in Ninety Six with the WUI mobile exhibit. They shared information about Firewise principles with attendees of the festival.

*Buddy Gunther speaks with locals about what they can do to make their homes Firewise.*



### Radio Updates

All SCFC vehicles and radios are in the process of being updated. The update process includes adding new repeaters and some critical fire department channel changes. This is done typically every year or so to reflect changes with cooperators radio systems.



*Forest technician Mac McLeod gets his unit reprogrammed at the Sumter office by communications manager Donald Bryant.*



*Donald updates Kathy Gullede's unit at the Chesterfield office.*

## A FEW MORE PUNS

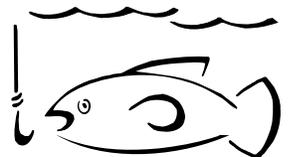
When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U. C. L. A.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.



## FIREWISE—Drake Carroll

### WUI Activity in the Coastal Plain

The 5th anniversary of the HWY 31 Fire was on April 22nd. As you probably know, this was South Carolina's most destructive fire to date. The fire burned over 19,000 acres in just over 18 hours and left 76 homes completely destroyed and 92 homes damaged. This fire brought wildland urban interface issues to the forefront in this community and across the state.

The anniversary of this fire along with other memorable wildfires in the area have really "sparked" the interest of several communities along the coast of SC. In the last few months, 10 communities have contacted the agency to request becoming Firewise communities, and 12 CWPP's (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) have been completed for communities along the coast. In addition, the Forestry Commission has also participated in several community outreach programs in hopes of providing further education and awareness to the public.

The most recent community to be receive Firewise recognition is Parkland at Legends. This community is located in the Carolina Forest area of Horry County and is just north of the area where the Legends Fires took place in 2002. Another community in the Carolina Forest area that stands out in a lot of minds is the Windsor Green development. This community lost 29 structures, containing 109 individual condominiums in one afternoon in March, 2012. Their CWPP was completed in April and they have submitted their application to become recognized as a Firewise Community, USA. This is a great step for this community to acknowledge the need to better protect their homes from future wildfires. We will soon complete CWPPs for several other communities that will then apply to become nationally recognized.



*Aerial of the Windsor Green Fire in March of 2012.*



*Parkland Firewise plaque being presented by Steve Moore.*



Horry County is not the only area with a lot of activity taking place. Daufuskie Island is a unique little Island in Beaufort County that can only be accessed by a ferry or other watercraft. On this small island, there are 5 separate subdivisions with diverse types of dwellings. After a field inspection of the area it was determined that the entire island is at risk of wildfire, and the local residents have expressed interest in becoming a Firewise community. The CWPP for Daufuskie will address the issues for the whole Island, as well as providing specifics in the plan for each individual subdivision. This will be a great opportunity for the Forestry Commission to develop a plan that covers large areas and diversified

communities, including whole counties or widespread municipalities. Enrolling large and more developed areas in the Firewise program has always been the long term vision of the Forestry Commission.

Steve Moore (State Firewise Coordinator), Calvin Bailey (Coastal Regional Forester) and Drake Carroll (Firewise Field Coordinator for the SC Coastal Plain), along with other agencies, attended several meetings in June to discuss the development of a county-wide CWPP for Charleston County. This idea was presented at the Charleston County Fire Chief's meeting in June, and received unanimous approval to proceed with the development of the plan. The plan will be constructed through a collaborative effort between the Forestry Commission and the Forest Service. In addition, Horry County has expressed interest in the development of a county-wide plan. If we can achieve the completion of these larger plans, it will be a great step forward for our Firewise program.

## Automated Burn Notification Numbers for FY14

## HISTORICAL FIRE DATA FOR MONTH OF JULY

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>FY2014 TOTALS</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>FIRES</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
Abbeville	2809	1976	74	151.5
Aiken	21515	1977	593	2,142.1
Allendale	961	1978	246	711.9
Anderson	13636	1979	172	402.0
Bamberg	2005	1980	387	1,494.9
Barnwell	4457	1981	198	1,181.7
Beaufort	8507	1982	74	118.5
Berkeley	21584	1983	301	1,474.3
Calhoun	3774	1984	67	372.7
Charleston	7209	1985	150	2,002.6
Cherokee	3730	1986	948	6,434.5
Chester	3060	1987	393	1,082.6
Chesterfield	6821	1988	537	3,813.8
Clarendon	5849	1989	81	259.6
Colleton	14135	1990	992	5,279.4
Darlington	10521	1991	111	226.1
Dillon	3714	1992	297	1,250.1
Dorchester	11565	1993	896	6,588.2
Edgefield	3268	1994	78	137.1
Fairfield	2265	1995	90	190.6
Florence	13869	1996	252	943.3
Georgetown	10553	1997	99	749.4
Greenville	12533	1998	405	1,667.0
Greenwood	3421	1999	116	610.3
Hampton	3171	2000	360	2,375.9
Horry	23707	2001	94	416.1
Jasper	3089	2002	402	2,766.5
Kershaw	14359	2003	14	27.7
Lancaster	4958	2004	84	269.3
Laurens	5394	2005	40	234.6
Lee	1667	2006	184	969.2
Lexington	31941	2007	169	764.5
Marion	7519	2008	214	942.2
Marlboro	4262	2009	90	461.5
McCormick	948	2010	94	324.0
Newberry	3582	2011	255	2,953.4
Oconee	11525	2012	171	1,203.3
Orangeburg	15674	2013	<u>11</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>12.8</u> <sup>2</sup>
Pickens	10889	2014*	83	576.0
Richland	7063			
Saluda	1596			
Spartanburg	8817			
Sumter	13602			
Union	421			
Williamsburg	9569			
York	10911			
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>386425</b>			



10 Year  
Average 131      810.4  
\*as of July 16, 2014

<sup>2</sup> Lowest on record for month of July

Highest fire occurrence for the month of July was in 1948 with 1,350 wildfires.

Highest acreage burned for month of July was in 1954 at 7,399.0 acres.

## Bat Disease Jumps from Mountains to Midlands in South Carolina

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources recently received confirmation that white-nose syndrome, a disease that has killed millions of bats in eastern North America, has been confirmed in a tri-colored bat in Richland County. Previously, the only known cases of the disease in South Carolina had been found in the mountain counties of Pickens and Oconee.



Mary Bunch, wildlife biologist and statewide bat coordinator with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in Clemson, said the white-nose syndrome (WNS) jump from the mountains to the midlands was really not all that surprising.

"We need to act like many of the true hibernating bats in the entire state are infected," Bunch said. "We can't assume that bats in our coastal region aren't affected anymore. We still hope that in the coastal area, where winters aren't as severe, that we won't lose as many bats to WNS."

WNS has now been confirmed in 25 states, and more than six million bats have been lost in the eastern United States in the past six years. Currently there is no cure or effective treatment for WNS, and mortality in some species, such as the small tricolored bat, has exceeded 98 percent. Bats have very low reproductive rates so recovery from losses takes a long time. Formerly common bats are becoming rare, and some rare bats may be lost. The fungus grows best in a cool moist environment, the same places bats go to hibernate.



Bat species that hibernate in mines or caves are susceptible to WNS. South Carolina has seven of those species: Rafinesque's big-eared bat, big brown bat, little brown bat, small-footed bat, Northern long-eared bat, tri-colored bat and Southeastern bat. So far, two tri-colored bats and one small-footed bat have been found to be infected with WNS in South Carolina. The Rafinesque's bat is not thought to be at risk, Bunch said, because that species is more active in winter with more brief bouts of hibernation. The tiny tri-colored bat is the first species to arrive and the last to leave a hibernaculum, so it has very long exposure to the cold-loving fungus.

A bat often found roosting in homes and buildings in South Carolina, the free-tailed bat, is a colonial species that does not hibernate, and WNS has not been detected in that species.

While WNS is not harmful to humans, scientists know the spores can be transported on clothing and gear, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service advises cavers and researchers to curtail caving activities and implement decontamination procedures in an effort to reduce the spread of WNS. Simply washing clothing will not kill the fungus. The U.S. Forest Service has implemented a 5-year ban on caving on its lands.

Bats play a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and have an enormous impact on pest control, benefitting the economies of both forestry and agriculture in the United States. For example, the one million little brown bats that have already died due to WNS would have eaten between 660 and 1,320 metric tons of insects in one year. A recent study published in Science estimates that insect-eating bats provide a significant pest-control service, saving the U.S. agricultural industry at least \$3 billion a year.

People who want to help bats should put up good quality bat boxes on poles or buildings with at least six hours of sun, according to Bunch. That is especially important in developed areas where natural roosts are in short supply.

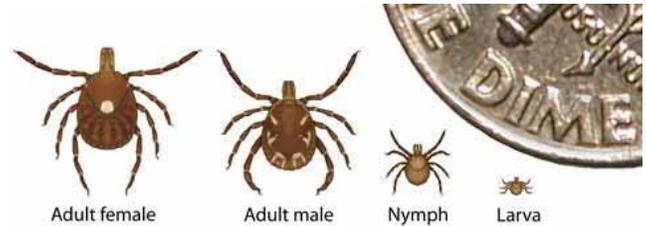
(For more information: [http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/yr2014/july3/july3\\_bat.html](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/yr2014/july3/july3_bat.html))

## New Serious Allergy Caused by Lone Star Ticks

[Information from this article came from QDMA's magazine, *Quality Whitetails* April-May 2014 issue: *Ticked Off. No More Venison* by Josh Gamblin and <http://www.alpha-gal.org>]

Whether you are working in the forestry profession or if you spend your free time hunting in the woods, you need to prevent tick bites. Lone star tick bites are likely the cause of thousands of cases of severe red meat allergies that are plaguing patients in the Southeastern United States spreading up the Eastern Seaboard along with the deer population.

The Alpha-Gal allergy was first discovered in 2006. Alpha-Gal is a delayed allergy to mammal meat affecting a growing number of the population. This allergy is initially caused by a tick bite. Since the reaction to eating mammal meat is delayed by several hours, the proper diagnosis is often missed or misdiagnosed. The allergy can cause hives and swelling, as well as broader symptoms of anaphylaxis including vomiting, diarrhea, trouble breathing, and a drop in blood pressure. Persons with the allergy can go into a delayed anaphylactic shock four-six hours after eating red meat.



The majority of severe cases reported are in the Southeast, which is the current range of the lone star tick. However, the lone star tick is rapidly expanding its range into the Northeast and Midwest. Hunters are most susceptible, being in the woods in pursuit of mammalian meat. Alpha-Gal is likely to become an epidemic due to increasing suburban deer populations and in-turn lone star tick populations.

Lone star ticks induce the allergy. The saliva of the tick causes the immune system of some people to produce antibodies specific to alpha-gal, but researchers have not yet discovered why, since alpha-gal is an otherwise benign substance. Most tickborne conditions arise when a tick introduces a specific harmful bacterium into the bloodstream, but not all ticks carry harmful bacteria.

According to Robert Valet, M.D., assistant professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt's Asthma, Sinus and Allergy Program, "It is not completely understood exactly how the allergy starts. The thought is that the tick has the alpha-gal sugar in its gut and introduces it as part of the allergic bite and that causes the production of the allergy antibody that then cross-reacts to the meat," he said. Valet said the allergy can cause hives and swelling, as well as broader symptoms of anaphylaxis including vomiting, diarrhea, trouble breathing, and a drop in blood pressure. "I think it is something that certainly belongs among the most important food allergies, particularly in the Southeast," he said. "Certainly these patients can present with every bit as severe of an allergy as someone who is allergic to peanuts." Alpha-gal patients can safely eat poultry such as chicken or turkey but red meats such as beef and pork, and even game like venison, will cause a reaction. Valet said some patients react to milk, even in relatively small amounts.



People who are afflicted with the Alpha-Gal allergy have to be constantly vigilant about the ingredients they consume, because an allergic reaction can be severe and life-threatening. Avoiding mammalian meat is the only treatment for this allergy. Fortunately, there is some evidence to suggest that as long as the patient is not re-bitten by ticks, the antibody levels continue to decline and the allergy may go away. Blood tests reveal that the allergy is related to the number of lone star tick bites one gets.

Take the time to reduce your chances of this allergy by taking extra precautionary steps like treating boots, clothing, and gear with permethrin after every couple weeks of use. Wear long pants and rubber boots whenever possible and be sure to tuck your pants into your boots to prevent ticks from crawling underneath your pants leg. If you are wearing shorts, be sure to spray your legs and any other exposed skin with 20-30% DEET. Most importantly, don't forget to thoroughly check yourself for ticks every time you get out of the woods. Be sure to get tested if you believe you have the allergy; even if you experience a mild reaction. Some people only react to certain mammal meat, and meats with higher fat content (like hotdogs) seem to elicit more severe reactions.

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## Faulty Green Certification Costing GA Timber Growers Much Green

Some in the media and in politics fail to understand that just because a favored policy of a lawmaker or interest group is described as "green" does not mean it will yield positive environmental outcomes. In addition to failing to stimulate conservation, these policies also may curtail economic activity in a way that hurts many businesses and timberland owners. This can certainly be the case in the forest products industry when policy intended to promote "green building" results in the diminished use of Georgia-grown wood thus reducing the incentive to tree farmers to continue planting and managing environmentally beneficial timberland.

A good example is approach of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) which has failed to heed the advice of a growing chorus of critics who take issue with its definition of "sustainable" timber. The organization's "LEED" building rating system, which many cities, states and federal agencies use as binding guidelines for energy-efficient building projects, only recognizes a small fraction of Georgia's wood as being sustainably managed.

Only lumber "certified" by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is formally recognized by the LEED system. Wood certified by the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), by far the majority of Georgia's certified wood, is not. This policy can adversely impact heavily-forested states such as Georgia, whose timber industry supports 160,000 jobs. Millions of acres of our forests are certified to ATFS and SFI standards, while just over 30,000 acres are recognized by FSC. This means only a small amount of Georgia's lumber and other wood-based building products is formally recognized by LEED as sustainable resulting in its being blocked from LEED projects, many of which are funded by taxpayer dollars. This USGBC framework ignores the benefits of *all* certification programs, including SFI and ATFS.

The USGBC and the politicians and bureaucrats that enforce its standards either willingly or unknowingly cater to environmental activists seeking to monopolize the use of FSC in certification markets. These activists rarely have an answer to the question of why FSC timber should receive preferences, given that according to the FSC's own data 90% of it is found *outside the U.S.*, much of it in nations that enforce few environmental protections on logging.

On a positive note, more public officials, when presented with the facts, are taking steps in the right direction. Governor Nathan Deal's 2012 Executive Order that leveled the playing field for businesses that use materials certified to ATFS, FSC or SFI standards on state-funded projects is an example of common-sense policy for green building. More welcome developments took place at the federal level late last year, when the General Services Administration and the Department of Defense endorsed the Green Globes rating system as a potential substitute to LEED. Green Globes, unlike LEED, treats all certified wood equally. If more jurisdictions used Green Globes rather than LEED, the customer base for our natural resource-based businesses would grow.

Does this mean FSC is a bad option for businesses or builders? Not at all. According to the [Sustainable Forestry Initiative](#), FSC holds businesses to low standards in South America and Asia, but they impose strict requirements on American foresters. The issue is the relative scarcity of FSC lumber in many states, including Georgia. Those looking to improve sustainability should promote inclusive policies for wood, a sustainable and renewable building material by any objective definition.

Promoting competitive markets, in which timber certified to the standards of ATFS, FSC and SFI is allowed to enter, will increase the amount of sustainable wood in our buildings and provide economic relief to the forest products industry, not to mention encouraging Georgia farmers to continue planting trees.

<http://www.peachpundit.com/2014/06/20/harper-faulty-green-certification-costing-ga-timber-growers-much-green/>

## James White Retirement

Piedmont East warden James White retired on June 29, 2014 after serving over 37 years putting out fires with the SC Forestry Commission. A retirement party was held for him on July 9th at Captain Steve's in Fort Mill.

James started his career with the Forestry Commission at the young age of 25, in January 1977. Over the years, James saw a lot of changes within the Commission. In his own words, "I've seen and done it all." During his career, he assisted with fires across the state from Abbeville County to Beaufort County, and of course in Horry County. He also spent time out of State in North Carolina and Florida.

During his farewell speech, James made a comment that he considered the Forestry Commission as "family" that he and his family will miss. His dedication and experience will be greatly missed. He now can spend more time in his reupholster shop. We wish James and his family the very best and happy retirement.



*Piedmont East Unit Forester Roy Boyd presents James White with a plaque of appreciation.*



*James White with his family guests at the retirement party.*



*State Forester Gene Kodama and Supervisor Joe Asaro present James with a framed certificate of service.*

**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](mailto:mjohnson@scfc.gov).

## ATTA BOYS

In an email to State Forester Gene Kodama dated June 30, 2014 from Gary Gilreath, Registered Forester with Association of Consulting Foresters regarding Lynchess River forest technician **Chad Walters** assistance with fireline construction:

*Gene*

*Last week in Savannah, I mentioned to you an equipment operator that works under Matt Crow in Lancaster/ Chesterfield County by the name of Chad Walters. This is a very good representative of the SCFC. Always helpful, friendly, and a great attitude, just a good person. I have used him on some fireline work in those areas and he is always the same. Just wanted to pass on a little praise where it is due.*

*Gary Gilreath, RF,ACF*

## Employee News

Coastal Region forestry technician **Michael Dobson** is retiring effective July 30, 2014. Michael has been a wildland firefighter in the Edisto Unit for almost 18 years with the SC Forestry Commission. We wish him well in his retirement.

## Retiree News

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

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



### "Invasive Pest"

Gene Kodama sent in this photo of a roadside produce stand near Moncks Corner that is almost completely covered by kudzu.

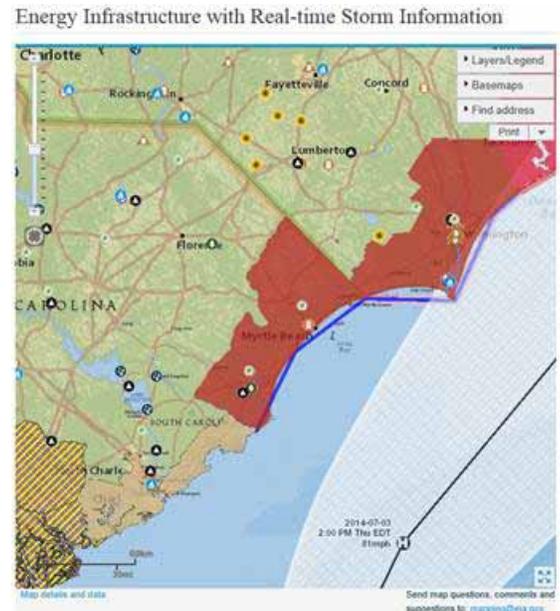
Please send in your funny, scenic or interesting photos to [mjohnson@scfc.gov](mailto:mjohnson@scfc.gov).

## Energy Disruptions from Storms

When hurricanes approach South Carolina, you can check the U.S. Energy Administration's (EIA) Energy Disruptions page (<http://www.eia.gov/special/disruptions/?src=home-b2>). This resource has real-time weather updates from the National Weather Service (NOAA), and it shows critical energy infrastructure like electric generating facilities, transmission lines, and oil refineries located in areas with weather watches, warnings, and advisories that can be affected by the storm.

An example of the page shows that the following energy infrastructure are in areas with hurricane watches and warnings that could have been affected by Hurricane Arthur:

- Winyah Generating Station (1,130 megawatts)
- International Paper Georgetown Mill biomass and wood power plant (88.9 megawatts)
- Myrtle Beach petroleum power plant (75 megawatts)
- Horry Land Fill Gas Site (3.3 megawatts)
- Georgetown LFGTE biomass power plant (1 megawatt)



## 7 SECURITY HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PC USERS

Part 1 of 7 (*HP Technology at Work* March, 2014)

You might not think about it when you're browsing the web, shopping online and interacting on social media, but you are the first line of defense against cyber security risks. The power to be safe is in your hands and at your fingertips. Developing and maintaining good habits can make online activity much safer and more enjoyable for you and your colleagues.

The following good habits take only minutes to learn and are easy enough to incorporate into your daily work life.

### 1. Create strong passwords

Passwords are usually the first, and sometimes only, protection against unauthorized access. They are the keys to your online kingdom, so keep these guidelines in mind.

- Many websites will let you know whether your password is safe when you're in the process of creating it. Pay attention to that, and if the site indicates that your password is weak or not secure, create a better one.
- Do not use your name, common phrases or words or acronyms that can be found in the dictionary—including foreign languages.
- Avoid prefixing or suffixing your password with numbers or using known keyboard patterns like "Qwerty2."
- Stop making sense. Create passwords that use a variety of letters, symbols and cases so you're less predictable to hackers and password-cracking systems.
- Use a random-password generator app like [1Password](#) to create and store unique passwords.

## New Zealand is the World's Largest Supplier of Softwood Logs

*(Wood Resources International LLC)*

New Zealand has become the world's largest exporter of softwood logs, with shipments in 2013 accounting for over 20 percent of global trade, according to estimates by WRI. Russia and the US ranked second and third as global log suppliers, each shipping about 15 percent of the softwood logs traded in the world last year. Not only has the *volume* of logs exported from New Zealand increased dramatically the past five years, with almost a doubling of exports to over 16 million m<sup>3</sup>, but the *value* of the logs has gone up even faster. The average value of exported logs reached a new record high in March this year, which was double the value just four years ago, as reported in the Wood Resource Quarterly (WRQ).



Despite the dramatic increase in sawlogs leaving the country and the closures of a number of manufacturing facilities in New Zealand, domestic log consumption has not changed much the past ten years. In 2013, the forest industry consumed just slightly less logs than the ten-year annual average consumption. China is, of course, the reason for the surge in log exports and the record high timber harvest levels in New Zealand. In 2013, shipments to China accounted for 72% of the total export volume, followed by South Korea, India and Japan. The magnitude of the log export volume cannot be underscored enough. In the 4Q/13, as much as 57 percent of the timber harvest in New Zealand was exported in log form. Such a high share of exports of unprocessed wood is unmatched in the rest of the world.

While timberland owners have mightily benefited from the strong log export market, domestic sawmills have not seen the same surge in export volumes. In 2008, the total value of exported lumber equaled that of exported logs at approximately 500 million US dollars. Since that time, the export value for lumber has gone up a respectable 30%. However, this pales in comparison with the value of logs that have gone up fourfold to reach close to two billion US dollars in 2013.

## LYNCHES RIVER UNIT SNAPSHOTS



*Supervisor Matt Crow demonstrates the "various other duties" by cutting grass at the Wedgefield office.*



*Sumter/Clarendon firefighters meet at the office in Wedgefield to turn in paperwork and get their radios reprogrammed.*

# Fire Weather Outlook



Southern Area: Normal to below normal significant wildland fire potential is expected for July through October.

Robust rain activity over the last month has produced a wetter environment for the majority of the Southern Area with the exception of isolated areas of the Atlantic States. Drought is mostly absent east of the Mississippi River and current and forecast drought remains isolated to Oklahoma and Texas. Puerto Rico has seen below average rain fall the last month and this pattern is expected to persist through the summer. The highest ignition potential will remain over the southern coastal plain and tropical activity is not expected to affect this area until July or August.

Expect continued rainfall chances for portions of the Southern Area through summer and especially into the fall. Expect both warmer and cooler temperature periods and typical afternoon and evening diurnal storm activity. Seasonal to below average tropical rain activity is expected for Puerto Rico.

With the exception of Puerto Rico and areas of the interior central Atlantic region, no particular areas of fire concern are expected during the outlook period. The Atlantic tropical season is ongoing and a land falling storm could be a potential significant high rain fall weather event, though development potential should be below average.

## July

- Above normal fire potential will persist over much of California, the Northwest and the Great Basin. Southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico will return to normal.

- Below normal fire potential will continue for much of the south central and southeast U.S. Below normal potential will also become prevalent across portions of the Northern Rockies and Rocky Mountains.

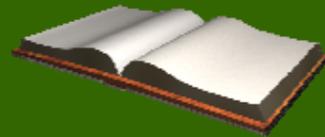


# Current Fire Numbers for South Carolina

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

Time Period	JULY		FISCAL YEAR	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
5 Year Average	124	984.9	2,109	13,468.8
10 Year Average	131	810.4	2,450	16,645.4
Current FY <sup>1</sup>	83	576.0	83	576.0

<sup>1</sup>To date for current fiscal year



## The History Corner

### NOW AND THEN

In this series, 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!

### Recreational Opportunities for Soldiers



*These soldiers and sponsors took part in a military appreciation deer hunt at Niederhof Forestry Center in November 2013. The hunts help manage wildlife populations on the property while also providing recreation and support for our military.*



*The 43rd Army Field Infantry unit visits Poinsett State Park in 1943 for recreation and relaxation. (The SC Forestry Commission operated state parks during that time.)*

State-owned land managed by the Forestry Commission is managed for multiple uses. While healthy forests are growing, they can be used for other objectives like outdoor recreation.

Active duty military play an important role for our country and "need a break" every so often. Our agency offers public recreational opportunities on all state forests and special recreational hunting opportunities to military personnel a few times a year to help them transition back to civilian activities. Children of our military are also included in our youth hunting activities when possible.



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