



August 20, 2014

TREE COUNTRY SC

From the desk of...

STATE FORESTER
Gene Kodama



Good day,

In the last Bulletin, I wrote about how important forests are to fresh water supply and filtration with over 60% of the supply coming from forested watersheds. We included some photos of the Lake Jocassee area and its waters and pointed out that the highest point in the state is nearby on Sassafras Mountain in Pickens County at 3,553 feet. We are blessed to live in South Carolina which is a "Mountains to the Sea" state, and where the distance between the two features is much shorter than other south Atlantic states. In fact, the driving distance from the highest point in the state on the North Carolina boundary to the lowest point at sea level is about 260 miles and less than five driving hours. We can have breakfast at either side of the state and lunch on the other.



White Water River enters Lake Jocassee.



Hunting Island lighthouse.

Last week, I visited Hunting Island, near Beaufort, SC to see one of my favorite State Parks with its barrier island maritime forest, interpretive facilities, and the Atlantic Ocean. We climbed the lighthouse and were reminded of the view that our Commission fire tower operators saw on a daily basis. The lighthouse is about 140 feet tall, just a little taller than most SC fire towers were. The view was spectacular, like the one from Sassafras Mountain - a view that is too big to capture in a photo and not adequately captured in a video.



View of forest from the lighthouse looking back toward Beaufort, SC.

You just have to see it. This perch enables the visitor to see for 40 miles out into the ocean and almost that far across the land. Pelicans were flying along the beach, and we were looking down on them. This is the sort of view that our tower operators saw

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NOTE: The next Bulletin will be September 10.

when watching for wildfires and communicating with Commission team members on the ground and in the air. We can see why they loved their job, and their "office" view!

Equally impressive was the view of the forest from above the tree tops which looks quite different from the normal ground-level view or what we can see on an aerial photo that was taken from thousands of feet above. After seeing the forest from the lighthouse, we once again visited the forest on the ground. And, this perspective was equally impressive with its unique rolling terrain of sand

underneath and a combination of plants that is found only on the barrier islands where Live Oak, Loblolly and Longleaf Pines, and Saw and Sabal Palmetto (our State Tree and Commission logo feature) dominate. This State Park and at least one other, the Huntington Beach State Park in Horry County, allow us to still see what barrier islands look like in a natural state. See www.southcarolinaparks.com for State Park information. The Forestry Commission is a partner with its sister agency, the SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism on forestry issues. The State Park system was housed within the Commission from its inception in 1934 until 1967. SC citizens can be proud of the fine job that SCDPRT is doing managing the state's parks.

So, within the past few weeks, I have visited the highest and lowest elevations in South Carolina and many places in between. I encourage you to do likewise to see South Carolina's beautiful and productive forests and other natural features. You could literally do this in a day if you wished too!

Best regards,

Gene

[NOTE: From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

A **maritime forest** is an ocean coastal wooded habitat found on higher ground than dune areas within range of salt spray. They can be found along the Atlantic coast of the United States.]



Hunting Island maritime forest.

Rare Smokey Artwork Donated by Pinner

In May, the Forestry Commission received a donation of a rare, original Smokey sketch that was done in 1971. WIS-TV veteran broadcaster Joe Pinner donated the artwork, which now hangs at the Commission Headquarters. Smokey Bear's illustrator at the time, Harry Rossoll, drew the sketch in front of the television audience for the *Mr. Knozit Show* and presented it to Joe. Thank you Mr. Knozit!



Quote of the Week

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

Nelson Henderson

New Employees

The agency would like to welcome three new employees to the workforce.

Ken Hamby started on July 17th as the new Supervisor in the Black River Unit. He will oversee firefighting and law enforcement in the Georgetown area. Ken attended Haywood Community College in Clyde, NC. He previously worked with the NC Forest Service as a temporary member of a hot shot crew, was a fireman for Summerville Fire & rescue, and K-9 handler for the Summerville Police Department. Ken currently lives in Charleston with his wife, two daughters, and two dogs. He enjoys hunting, fishing, family time and coaching t-ball.



Ken Hamby



Jacqueline Lintzenich joined the agency on July 17th as a forest technician on Sand Hills State Forest. Jacqueline attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. She currently lives in Cheraw and enjoys running, hiking, rock climbing, and kayaking.

Walter Whetstone is the new forester in the Santee Unit. Walter started on August 4th and will work out of the Orangeburg office. He lives in St. Matthews and attended Calhoun Academy and Clemson University. He previously worked with AMCO Construction.



Walter Whetstone

Jacqueline Lintzenich

So the next time you see these new employees, please introduce yourself and welcome them to the agency.

HUMAN RESOURCES—Lynn Rivers

BlueChoice HMO No Longer Offered

The BlueChoice HealthPlan HMO will not be offered in 2015. Subscribers who are enrolled in BlueChoice should choose another plan or drop health coverage during open enrollment (in October 2014). BlueChoice did not renew its contract with PEBA due to declining enrollment and increasing costs. BlueChoice subscribers who do not choose another health plan during open enrollment will be automatically enrolled in the State Health Plan Standard Plan.

Log a Load for Kids

The SC Forestry Association is sponsoring Log A Load For kids—a campaign to raise funds for children's hospitals who help treat ill and injured children. All funds raised locally are designated and remain with the children's hospital in your area.

The Log A Load program originated in South Carolina in 1988 as a program designed to demonstrate logger's commitment to community service and professionalism. The concept was for loggers and wood supplying businesses to donate the value of a load of logs to a Children's Miracle Network affiliated hospital. The program is now national in scope.



Please commit to support this project by completing a Log A Load For Kids pledge card today and return it to the SCFA by October 15th. For more information and pledge cards, go to <http://www.scforestry.org/log-a-load-for-kids>.

FOREST PROTECTION—Judy Lucas

Customer Satisfaction Survey Results

Summary of FY 2014 Customer Satisfaction Survey Results & Overall Satisfaction Rates:

Services – 98% of our customers reported they were “Satisfied” with the services received and 97% of those responding plan to use our services again.

Forest Management – 95% of our customers reported they were “Satisfied” with the forest management assistance received and 97% of those responding plan to implement some or all of the recommendations within their plan.

Stewardship - 95% of our customers reported they were “Satisfied” with the stewardship assistance received and 95% of those responding plan to implement some or all of the recommendations within their plan.

Cost-Share-Initial – 93% of our customers reported they were “Satisfied” with the assistance received.

Cost-Share-Follow-up – 87% of our customers reported they were “Satisfied” with the assistance received.

So how does this compare with previous years?

	Services	Forest Management	Stewardship	Cost-Share Initial	Cost-Share Follow-up
FY 14	98%	95%	95%	93%	87%
FY 13	98%	96%	98%	92%	94%
FY 12	92%	92%	100%	N/A	N/A
FY 11	96%	93%	100%	N/A	N/A
FY 10	95%	96%	99%	N/A	N/A
FY 09	94%	94%	97%	N/A	N/A
FY 08	96%	95%	98%	N/A	N/A

HGTC No Longer Hosts Forestry Teleconferences

Horry-Georgetown Technical College has long been a host site for the Forestry Teleconference Series with the North Carolina State University's Forestry and Environmental Outreach Program (FEOP). **The Teleconference Series will no longer be offered.** Please bookmark the following websites to keep you current on various Continuing Educational Opportunities.

Forestry and Wildlife Professionals, Loggers and Landowners are encouraged to seek out Continuing Education Opportunities through the following options:

Webinars (Live & Archived)

Forestry & Conservation Training - Live and Archived @ Forestry Webinar Portal - <http://www.forestrywebinars.net/>

Southern Fire Exchange Webinars & Events - http://www.southernfireexchange.org/Web_Event.html

Live Workshops and Webinars

South Carolina - http://www.clemson.edu/extension/natural_resources/index.html

North Carolina - <http://forestry.ces.ncsu.edu>

Georgia - <http://conted.warnell.uga.edu/>

URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY—Frances Waite

Green Infrastructure Planning Guide for South Carolina

The South Carolina Forestry Commission and Trees SC along with the SC Council of Governments (COG) are hosting free presentations about our state's Green Infrastructure Planning Guide and Model initiative that is now underway. The US Forest Service and South Carolina Forestry Commission have contracted a nonprofit firm -- the Green Infrastructure Center -- to create the South Carolina Practitioner's Guide for Green Infrastructure Planning. In an effort to ensure communities and local and regional leaders are aware of this new tool, all interested parties are encouraged and welcomed to attend this two-hour informational presentation to learn more and contribute ideas to the project.

Green infrastructure includes all the interconnected natural systems in a landscape, such as intact forests, woodlands, wetlands, dune systems, parks and rivers, or agricultural soils that provide clean water, air quality, wildlife habitat and food. They are important to our lives and livelihoods, providing stormwater treatment, energy savings, aesthetic values, improved community health, storm protection, and a sustainable local economy. However, to garner all these benefits, our natural systems not only need to be identified and mapped, but also assigned values to determine which are the most important to conserve as part of the community's "infrastructure." Through this project, the GIC will be building a computer model to help South Carolina localities do just that.

Karen Firehock of the Green Infrastructure Center will be the speaker. Her presentation will include an overview of the green infrastructure guide and computer modeling project, definitions and case studies, and explain how green infrastructure strategies can help localities and regions better conserve their environmental and cultural resources. During her presentation she will address how available data and information can be utilized as a tool to enhance rural and urban planning and meet economic, regulatory and environmental health goals.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by emailing the contact person for each respective COG.

Schedule of COG Presentations

Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Monday, August 18 at 2 PM	Contact: Kathryn Basha; kbasha@bcdcog.com
Pee Dee Regional Wednesday, August 27 at 10 AM	Contact: Levonne Powell; lpowell@peedeecog.org
Central Midlands Wednesday, August 27 at 3 PM	Contact: Gregory Sprouse; gsprouse@cmcog.org
Waccamaw Regional Thursday, August 28 at 10 AM	Contact: Daniel Newquist; dnewquist@wrcog.org
Santee Lynches Thursday, August 28 at 3 PM	Contact: Chris Clauson; cclauson@slcog.org
Appalachian Wednesday, September 3 at 3 PM	Contact: Chip Bentley; bentley@scacog.org
Upper Savannah Thurs., September 4 at 10 AM	Contact: Rick Green; rgreen@uppersavannah.com
Lower Savannah Thursday, September 4 at 3 PM	Contact: Amanda Sievers; asievers@lscog.org
Catawba Regional Friday, September 5 at 10 AM	Contact: Robby Moody; rmoody@catawbacog.org
Lowcountry Monday, September 8 at 10 AM	Contact: Ginnie Kozak; gkozak@lowcountrycog.org

Piedmont Forestry Center Hosts Youth Fishing Rodeo

On Saturday, May 17th, the Forestry Commission's Piedmont Forestry Center hosted a Youth Fishing Rodeo for children twelve and under. It was estimated that between 400-and 500 people attended the fun, outdoor event which is organized by the SC Department of Natural Resources. There were over twenty event sponsors and refreshments were served to all who attended.

Several SCFC employees from the Piedmont West Unit (Jarod Brucke, Jaime Smith, Ray Cassell, Randy Lyles, Don Stone, and Ronnie Patterson) were involved in helping with the event and, as always, Paul Blessing had the grounds looking great!



Photos of some happy participants.



Participants sign in for the event.



Children and their guardians line the creek.



It was a beautiful day for a great event.



Crowd gathers for the giveaway of prizes.

Aviation Touches Lives in South Carolina

Aviation touches the lives of countless South Carolinians in ways that might surprise you. In honor of Aviation Week Aug. 17-23, the South Carolina Aviation Association and the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission will showcase the impact aviation has on the state, its people and the economy.

Governor Nikki Haley recognized the week of Aug. 17-23 with a proclamation honoring the state's six commercial service airports, 61 general aviation airports and four busy military airfields. All are essential underpinnings to South Carolina's diversified business base, growing population and growing tourism industry. Airports in South Carolina support recreational flying, provide a gateway to communities and tourist attractions, accommodate agricultural spraying, support air cargo and air freight shipments, help law enforcement, support the military and its operations, provide access in times of emergency and support medical needs and the medical profession.

With more than 100 aerospace-related companies in South Carolina, aviation is a multi-billion-dollar industry and supports more than 70,000 jobs. Aviation and airports in the state contribute millions each year in tax benefits to state and local governments.

A seven-minute video has been released showcasing businesses across South Carolina that rely on aviation, both commercial service and general aviation airports, for the efficient transport of people and goods. Among those featured are the Medical University of South Carolina's MEDUCARE, the Greenville County Sheriff's Department, and the **SC Forestry Commission**. The video is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrwfbQ9Rfzw&feature=youtu.be>

SC Forestry Commission Protection Chief Darryl Jones was interviewed a few weeks ago for video and pilot Sam Anderson provided aerial video footage of a wildfire for the production.

For more details on the activities during Aviation Week around the state, visit scaonline.com and the South Carolina Aviation Association Facebook page.



Scenes from the aviation video. Darryl Jones (above) and wildfire footage (below) from a fire in Aiken.



DID YOU KNOW?

Mustard will cure leg and foot cramps. Cramps are sometimes caused by a deficiency in acetylcholine, the neurotransmitter that stimulates your muscles to work. Mustard has acetic acid, which helps the body make more acetylcholine. Take a spoonful or two of mustard and the cramps go away. Drinking a few ounces of pickle juice is another cure for them.

(Thanks to Pee Dee Regional Administrative Assistant Susan Gensel for this tip. Her uncle told her about it and tried it last week with a cramping foot and the mustard worked.)



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT—Herb Nicholson

Harbison Road Project

Harbison State Forest recently received some environmental improvements to its roads thanks to the help of some willing foresters. Culverts were recently installed on the main access road into Harbison State Forest to address water run-off issues.

On one steep stretch of the road, surface water was channeled by a ditch and turned out close to an intermittent stream. The one existing culvert was too far uphill to be effective. Two 40' long, 18" diameter culverts were installed uphill to provide cross-drainage and to divert the water to the opposite side of the road into sediment basins and then into the undisturbed forest floor for further filtration before reaching the stream. Upon completion of the project, all disturbed soil was seeded and mulched with wheat straw for stabilization to prevent erosion.

Two additional 40' long, 18" diameter culverts were installed near the main gate entering Harbison to prevent a future problem like the one mentioned above. We thought these would be easier to install, however we did not take into account the water line that supplies water to the gazebo. We had to cut the water line, install the culverts, and then replace the waterline over the culvert. Thanks to Trip Miller for allowing us to do this project on Harbison. A special thanks goes to Doug Mills (chief track-hoe operator) and Jonathan Calore (head plumber) for their help with the project and to their supervisors for allowing them to assist. In the near future, a sign explaining the project and the need for it will be placed on the roadside for educational purposes.



Jonathan Calore ratchets two sections of the culvert together.



Doug Mills operates the backhoe.



Herb Nicholson shovels loose soil out so the culvert can be armored with rip rap



Trip Miller levels the road after the culvert installation.



View of road after installation showing armored culvert inlet with grass growing.

TRAINING—Leslie Woodham

CPFM Courses

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is offering training for individuals seeking to be a Certified Prescribed Fire Managers. Certification and proper burn execution can reduce the liability for those conducting outdoor burning. Training sessions are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, October 8, 2014	Columbia
Wednesday, October 22, 2014	Florence
Thursday, November 13, 2014	Walterboro
Wednesday, January 7, 2015	Columbia

The one-day course teaches managers how to plan prescribed burns that comply with South Carolina Smoke Management Guidelines. These regulations are mandatory for all forestry, wildlife and agricultural burning in South Carolina.

The course is not intended to teach individuals how to burn, but rather how to manage smoke from prescribed fires under these regulations and create awareness of legal issues associated with outdoor burning.

Certification requires that an individual complete this training, pass a written exam, and document one's burning experience. Each session will begin at 8:30 am, and close by 5:00 pm with an administered test.

To register for the course, please complete the enclosed [registration form](#), and mail it with your \$50 registration fee. Applications are accepted on a first come-first served basis. The deadline for registration is three weeks prior to the course.

Reference materials and specific details regarding locations will be mailed two weeks prior to each session.

If you have further questions, please call Leslie Woodham at 803-896-8809.

The Myth of Wound Dressings for Trees: "Apply wound dressing after pruning to insure against insect or fungal invasion"

Linda Chalker-Scott, Ph.D., Extension Horticulturist and Associate Professor, Puyallup Research and Extension Center, Washington State University

The Myth

Although Shigo debunked the myth of wound dressing decades ago, it still persists, particularly among those with something to sell. A quick look at the Internet revealed the following claims (I've left out brand names, but they're easy to find):

- "A clean, easy, simple way to aid in healing cuts and protecting tree wounds, pruned-edges and graft unions of roses, trees, and shrubs"
- "Insure your trees, shrubs, and vines against decay, insects, and fungi in any kind of weather"
- "An artificial bark for treatment of wounds...made of ALL NATURAL biodegradable materials"

And my personal favorite (advertised as "an extremely durable rust and corrosion inhibitor") lists a multitude of wonderful uses for their product:

- Trucks -Farms and Construction Equipment - Collision Shops
- Tree Wound Dressing - Gutter and Flashing Sealer
- Seals Electrical Boxes and Fittings - Concrete and Asphalt Driveway Crack Sealer

More recently, "green" companies have peddled collagen, pectin, hydrogel, and aloe gel as "natural" tree healers. These hucksters claim that "the surface will heal over quickly and insects are repelled by the bitter taste." Not one shred of scientific evidence is ever offered to substantiate these miracles.

The Reality

Tree wound dressing: A petroleum-based product used to cover freshly cut wood to inhibit decay or

(Continued from page 9)

insect infestation. (From the glossary on Regenesi.net)

Yikes! Think about this stuff – a petroleum-based product. Does this sound like a substance that would be beneficial to a living tissue? Would you use it to treat a cut on your own skin? If the idea repels you, carry that feeling over to plant health care.

Wound dressings do:

- seal in moisture and decay
- sometimes serve as a food source for pathogens
- prevent wound wood from forming
- inhibit compartmentalization
- eventually crack, exposing the tree to pathogens

Wound dressings do not:

- prevent entrance of decay organisms
- stop rot



For some inexplicable reason, some people are compelled to “manage” a process that plants have evolved over millions of years. Every year, trees form hundreds of tiny abscission layers as leaves senesce and fall. Wounds left from branch breakage are callused over and compartmentalized. But look at this advice from another web site with something to sell:

- “Bark with cracks. This is a **natural** (emphasis mine) occurrence in the growth of trees & shrubs. Where cracking occurs in the lower wood it is probably caused by flooding after a long period of dryness. Cracks in the trunk should be painted with a tree wound dressing or bituminous paint to prevent the invasion of fungal diseases”

It’s important to recognize that trees do not heal. Instead, they isolate damage through formation of suberized, lignified wood that physically and chemically repels invasion. Callus develops at the edge of the wound and gradually expands towards the center. This wound wood remains for the life of the tree; bark does not regenerate itself the same way our skin does.

There may be some benefit in treating wounds of trees particularly susceptible to certain diseases, such as oak wilt. Many regions in the country specify that oaks pruned in areas where oak wilt is a problem should be treated to prevent infection. While research supporting this advice is sketchy at best, it may be justifiable to use a fungicide or insecticide during spring or summer pruning. If pruning is done during the dormant season, the chance of infection is greatly reduced and wound treatment should be avoided.

Finally, the use of wound dressing “for aesthetic reasons” is never justified. In this case, the customer is not “always right.” Let these situations serve as opportunities to educate the tree owner.

The Bottom Line

- Like all living organisms, plants have natural resistance mechanisms to fight insect attack or disease.
- Covering wounds with traditional sealants inhibits oxidative processes, which in turn will reduce callus formation and subsequent compartmentalization.
- Optimal pruning time for insect- or disease-prone species is in the fall or winter when temperatures and infection rates are lower.
- If you must prune a disease-prone species when insects or fungi are active (i.e. during the warmer times of the year), a light coating of an insecticide or fungicide may be warranted.
- Try sterilizing pruning tools. Such measures can help reduce the transmission of certain plant diseases to healthy plants.
- Control disease spread through preventative management practices such as disposal of contaminated organic material and use of disease-free compost and mulch).

For more information, please visit Dr. Chalker-Scott’s web page at <http://www.theinformedgardener.com>.

Forestry Queens Visit Commission

On Friday, August 15th, some of the 2014 SC Forestry Queens visited the Forestry Commission Headquarters to prepare for the National Forestry Pageant.

After being welcomed by Forest Management Chief Russell Hubright, the younger queens joined Brad Bramlett to learn more about forests and what we get from them. The queens over nine years of age learned about the Forestry Commission from Deputy State Forester Tom Patton and the importance of forestry from Sally Tucker from the SC Forestry Association. Education Coordinator Stephanie Kolok then took the queens outside for some hands on education and Equipment Coordinator Doug Mills explained and demonstrated some of our equipment that we use to fight wildfires.

Retired Supervisor Harold Lawrimore is the proud grandfather of Annelise Truesdale and accompanied her to the Columbia office. Georgetown forest technician JP Truesdale is her proud father.

We wish all of the girls luck as they represent South Carolina in the US National Forestry Pageant on August 30th in Tifton, Georgia.



SC Forestry Queens: Annelise Truesdale, Brooklyn Short, Giovanna Lyerly, Alycesaundra Lyerly, Lake Killman, Meadow Poston, Payton Holmes, and Kerri Gardner



Russell Hubright has the queens introduce themselves.



Forestry Queens pose inside.



Sally Tucker (SCFA) describes the importance of forestry to our state.



Stephanie Kolok shows the queens a "tree cookie" (a cross sectional piece of a tree stem).



Junior Miss SC Forestry Meadow Poston turns the increment borer.



Doug Mills explains how we fight wildfire and demonstrates some equipment.



South Carolina Forestry Queens



The girls received goody bags from the Forestry Association and the Commission.

Planes: Fire & Rescue Event in Murrells Inlet

On Saturday, August 9th the Forestry Commission, along with Midway Fire & Rescue, were present at the showing of Disney's "Planes: Fire & Rescue" movie at Frank Theatre in Murrells Inlet.



The Forestry Commission had a new D6 bulldozer and truck unit on display.



"Planes: Fire & Rescue" is a comedy-adventure animated film about second chances, featuring a dynamic crew of elite firefighting aircraft devoted to protecting historic Piston Peak National Park from raging wildfires. Together, the fearless team battles a massive wildfire and Dusty learns what it takes to become a true hero. "Planes: Fire & Rescue" was released on July 18, 2014.



The movie event at Inlet Square Mall had firefighting equipment on display, personnel to answer questions, and informational handouts and goodies for attendees.

Black River Unit Forester Ron Holt, Georgetown Supervisor Ken Hamby, forest technicians Brad Jones and Glenn Porter (with his D6 bulldozer) were in attendance representing the Forestry Commission. The D6 along with the fire engine from Midway were brought to the theatre to show the community how the two organizations work together to battle woodland fires. Besides viewing the equipment, the community became better informed and learned how to protect their property from woodland fires.

Frank Theatre also gave free tickets to the firefighters and children that attended!



Midway Fire & Rescue's engine.



Ron Holt shows an interested youngster how the dozer moves.

7 SECURITY HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PC USERS

Part 3 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.

Secure mobile devices from loss

While mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets and laptops are valued for their portability, this convenience can become a security risk. It's easy to lose or misplace these devices, so be sure to:

- Make a list of phone numbers and email addresses to report stolen or lost devices
- Use a hardware cable lock for your laptop, or store it in a locked drawer
- Keep smartphones and tablets with you when in public
- Never put devices in your checked baggage when traveling

John Cuttino's Retirement Lunch

On Monday, August 4th, the Santee Unit held a retirement luncheon for retiring forest technician John Cuttino. John worked with the Commission for over 24 years and recently retired. Current employees were joined by retirees and family members at The Kuckery in Orangeburg to celebrate John's retirement and share memories. We wish John the best in retirement, he will be missed.



State Forester Gene Kodama presents John with a plaque of appreciation for his service to the state.



Employees and retirees catch up before lunch.



Retirees Roger Hagwood and Judy Sprouse share some memories of John.



Santee Unit Forester Walt Woodrum says a few words about John's retirement.

Gene Kodama thanks John for his service to the agency.



John Cuttino expresses his feelings on retirement with the group.



SERVICE AWARDS for August

Sammy Connelly	Piedmont Forest Technician	25 Years State and Agency Service
Scott Phillips	Stewardship Coordinator	15 Years State and Agency Service
Lisa Stribble	Piedmont Dispatcher	15 Years State and Agency Service

Photos



Retiree Tommy Edwards stopped by the Orangeburg office to visit before John Cuttino's retirement luncheon. Listening to Tommy is Billy Rutland, Walt Woodrum, Eddie Polin, Calvin Bailey, Eddie Godowns and Michael Smoak.

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.

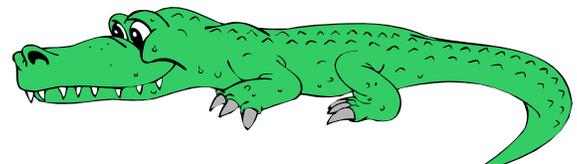
SOME RULES OF THE SOUTH

The "Opener" refers to the first day of deer season. For many, it's a holiday held in August or September.

We have three main dishes: meats, vegetables, and breads.

We use three spices: salt, pepper, and ketchup!

When golfing in the south, don't hit the water hazards -- it frightens the fish, and aggravates the alligators.



EDUCATION—Stephanie Kolok

WOOD MAGIC Volunteers Needed

The Wood Magic Forest Fair at the Piedmont Forestry Center needs volunteers! All positions are needed, but we are especially in need of station instructors. Contact Stephanie Kolok to volunteer or for more information. 803-896-8855, skolok@scfc.gov

Piedmont Forestry Center, Tamasee—September 16-19, 2014



ATTA BOYS

In an email dated July 30th, 2014 to State Forester Gene Kodama and Deputy State Forester Tom Patton from Frances Taylor, Communications Director at the SC Forestry Association regarding **Roy Boyd's** involvement with the Tree Farm program:

Gene and Tom --

I really appreciate Roy's dedication and hard work as our Tree Farm Tour Chairman. He does such an excellent job and is a joy to work with.

Thank you!

Frances

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



"Afternoon Snack"

This photo was taken by Sam Anderson a few weeks ago at his house in Chester. Sam and his wife were sitting on the back porch and this doe walked up and started eating honeysuckle vines.

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

National Study Finds Trees Saving Lives

(<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/news/release/trees-save-lives-reduce-air-pollution>)

In the first broad-scale estimate of air pollution removal by trees nationwide, U.S. Forest Service scientists and collaborators calculated that trees are saving more than 850 human lives a year and preventing 670,000 incidences of acute respiratory symptoms.

While trees' pollution removal equated to an average air quality improvement of less than 1 percent, the impacts of that improvement are substantial. Researchers valued the human health effects of the reduced air pollution at nearly \$7 billion every year in a study published recently in the journal *Environmental Pollution*. "Tree and Forest Effects on Air Quality and Human Health in the United States," is available online at: <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/46102>

The study by Dave Nowak and Eric Greenfield of the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Research Station and Satoshi Hirabayashi and Allison Bodine of the Davey Institute is unique in that it directly links the removal of air pollution with improved human health effects and associated health values. The scientists found that pollution removal is substantially higher in rural areas than urban areas, however the effects on human health are substantially greater in urban areas than rural areas.

"With more than 80 percent of Americans living in urban area, this research underscores how truly essential urban forests are to people across the nation," said Michael T. Rains, Director of the Forest Service's Northern Research Station and the Forest Products Laboratory.

"Information and tools developed by Forest Service research are contributing to communities valuing and managing the 138 million acres of trees and forests that grace the nation's cities, towns and communities."

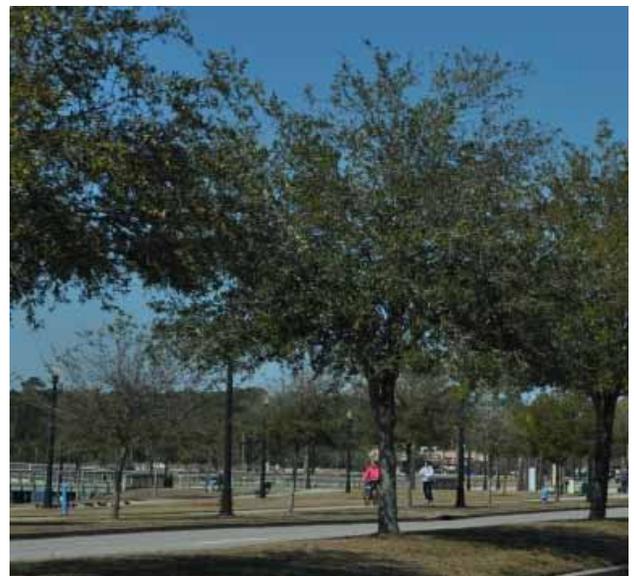
The study considered four pollutants for which the U.S. EPA has established air quality standards: nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}) in aerodynamic diameter. Health effects related to air pollution include impacts on pulmonary, cardiac, vascular, and neurological systems. In the United States, approximately 130,000 PM_{2.5}-related deaths and 4,700 ozone-related deaths in 2005 were attributed to air pollution.

Trees' benefits vary with tree cover across the nation. Tree cover in the United States is estimated at 34.2 percent but varies from 2.6 percent in North Dakota to 88.9 percent in New Hampshire.

"In terms of impacts on human health, trees in urban areas are substantially more important than rural trees due to their proximity to people," Nowak said. "We found that in general, the greater the tree cover, the greater the pollution removal, and the greater the removal and population density, the greater the value of human health benefits."



Trees provide a healthy playground.



Upcoming Holiday: Labor Day—Monday, September 1

AROUND THE WORLD

Can “Tree Free Paper” Save Forests and Trees?

Paper can be produced from a wide variety of raw materials. Though wood has generally been found to be the most cost-effective source of fiber, non-wood fiber has long been used in papermaking in some parts of the world, and some non-wood use continues today. It is important to recognize that production, collection, transport, and use of all raw materials result in environmental impacts. Fully understanding supply chains is critical to determining environmental attributes of any product.

A new report by Dovetail Partners Inc. (http://www.dovetailinc.org/report_pdfs/2004/dovetailtreefreepap9204.pdf) presents findings of various investigations into environmental impacts of alternative fiber and paper production systems, including a recent cradle-to-grave life cycle assessment (LCA) of alternative fiber use in production of tissue. It shows that using fiber from sources other than trees does not create more extensive forests or more trees.

The report also states; “It may well be, then, that the very foundation of the tree-free movement is flawed. Counter intuitively, continued use of paper and other wood products may be a key factor in maintaining a forested landscape for future generations. While saving trees and protecting forests is a widely shared goal, avoiding the use of wood is not necessarily the way to get there. It is precisely the areas of the world that consume the least wood that continue to experience the greatest forest loss.”

Money Growing on Trees

Trees are often considered to be expensive-to-maintain assets with little value outside of hard-to-maintain aesthetics. The Sacramento Municipal Utility District thinks otherwise: in a city that reaches temperatures of 113 degrees, they’ve found that subsidizing the planting of more than 500,000 trees is an efficient way to cut energy costs. Shaded buildings use 25-40 percent less energy during the summer: and new data from the U.S. Forest Service is able to quantitatively prove that trees are essential infrastructure. They cool the air, soak up climate change-inducing gases, protect against flooding, reduce people’s stress levels and raise property values. Studies even show that shoppers spend more money at stores on tree-lined streets.

Data from the new i-Tree software has found, for example, that each street tree in New York City provides \$9.02 annually in air pollution reduction, \$1.29 in carbon sequestration and \$61 in storm-water abatement—\$220 million in all, according to a 2007 study conducted with an early version of the software. Experts have calculated that Syracuse, N.Y., saves \$1.1 million a year in health and related costs because of the soot its trees divert from the lungs of residents, and that the conversion of vacant lots to community gardens in Philadelphia hikes nearby home values by an average of \$35,000. [<http://www.newsweek.com/2014/05/09/money-growing-trees-249162.htm>]

Jobs Created in the U.S. When a Home is Built

New estimates show that building an average single-family home generates 2.97 jobs, measured in full-time equivalents (enough work to keep one worker employed for a year).

A substantial share of this is employment for construction workers. But also included is employment in firms that manufacture building products, transport and sell products, and provide professional services to home builders and buyers (e.g., architects and real estate agents). A breakdown by industry is shown below, along with the wages and business profits generated in the process.

Wages and profits are subject to a variety of taxes and fees. The national impacts of building an average single-family home include \$74,354 in federal taxes and \$36,603 in state and local fees and taxes, for a total of \$110,957 in revenue for governments at all levels. [<http://eyeonhousing.org/2014/05/jobs-created-in-the-u-s-when-a-home-is-built>]



Upcoming Forestry Commission Training

September 9-11, 2014	S-211
September 22-23, 2014	Technician Unit 102 Group 1
September 24-25, 2014	Technician Unit 102 Group 2
October 8, 2014	CPFM Certified Prescribed Fire Manager in Columbia
October 22, 2014	CPFM Certified Prescribed Fire Manager in Florence
November 13, 2014	CPFM Certified Prescribed Fire Manager in Walterboro
December 8-12, 2014	Basic Fire School
January 7, 2015	CPFM Certified Prescribed Fire Manager in Columbia



New forest technicians attend Unit 101 training at the Columbia HQ in late July.



State lands Coordinator Mike Shealy teaches Unit 101 to the new technicians.

Employee News

Michael Dopson, forestry technician in the Edisto Unit of the Coastal region, retired effective July 31, 2014. Michael has worked for the agency for almost 18 years. We wish him well in his retirement.

James Douglas, Assistant Forest Director at Manchester State Forest, and his wife Marley are the proud parents of a healthy baby girl, Mary Maude Douglas. She was born on Thursday, August 14th weighing 9 lbs, 2 oz. and was 21.25 inches long. Mother, father and baby are doing well!



Retiree News

It was good to see retirees from the Orangeburg area at John Cuttino's retirement luncheon. Retired Orangeburg administrative assistant **Judy Sprouse**, forester **Roger Hagwood**, and ranger **Tommy Edwards** all attended and looked great. Retirement seems to be suiting them.

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.

Fire Weather Outlook



August

Above normal fire potential will continue across much of the West Coast states. Southwestern Puerto Rico has been unusually dry this summer and has above normal fire potential.

- Fire potential will return to normal across portions of the Northern Rockies and Rocky Mountain Areas.
- Below normal fire potential is expected for western Oklahoma, western Texas, southeastern New Mexico and much of the coastal Southeast.

September

Above normal fire potential will persist across the western states through September with fire potential returning to normal over eastern portions of Northern California and Northwest by late September.

- Below normal fire potential will continue over the southern Plains, the mid-Mississippi Valley and part of the Southeast. Hawaii will remain below normal potential while Alaska's fire season comes to a close.

Southern Area: Normal to below normal significant wildland fire potential is expected for the period August through November, with the exception of southwestern Puerto Rico where significant wildland fire activity is expected to be above normal for the month of August only.

Recurring rain activity and above average rain totals over the last 30 days continue to mitigate the occurrence of large fire activity and potential. With the exception of southern coastal areas of Puerto Rico and areas of Texas, broad-scale long-term drought is nonexistent with central states actually showing "wet" conditions. A mosaic of smaller short term drought areas has emerged in the Southeast due to less than average rainfall with passing fronts.

With the warmer ENSO pattern, we expect a continuation of the higher frequency storms with frontal passages and the recurring rain events it generates.

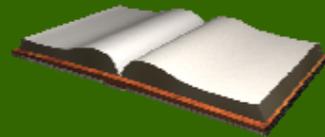


Current Fire Numbers for South Carolina

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

Time Period	AUG		JULY-AUG		FISCAL YEAR	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
5 Year Average	75	356.0	199	1,340.9	2,109	13,566.2
10 Year Average	91	448.3	222	1,258.7	2,458	16,656.8
Current FY ¹	10	19.2	124	797.7	124	797.7

¹To 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 changed since it was created in 1927. Enjoy the changes!

Incident Command Post (ICP)

The ICP is the location where the Incident Commander operates during response operations. Every incident or event must have some form of an Incident Command Post whether it be located in a vehicle, trailer, tent, or within a building. The ICP will be positioned outside of the present and potential hazard zone but close enough to the incident to maintain command.

In South Carolina, the ICP is the truck of the first firefighter on scene in most cases. If the incident grows, a more visible ICP will be set up.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission currently has an ICP trailer set up for computer networking, internet, printers, television, and radio communication. It also features a meeting room and work areas for staff.

In the past, the agency used pickup camper shells and old military trucks for traveling Command Posts. According to retired Fire Chief Miles Knight, 'The pickup camper shells were in the four lower state Districts -1, 2, 3, and 7 (Camden, Florence, Kingstree, and Walterboro). There might have been one in the Spartanburg District too. Inside the shell was a workbench table with a couple of 12-volt lights and an old heater. Each had paper, pen and map making tools along with a supply of county and state maps and some aerial photos. The shells also had large fire org charts and other check-in forms, etc. There was a small door or you could remove the back side.'

Miles recalls, 'They were small. JT Hance skinned his head badly by hitting the top of the door while going in or out at the Clear Pond Fire in 1976.'

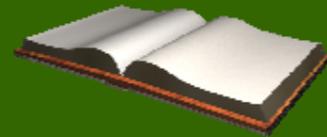
Retired State Forester Jack Gould adds that that the 'smaller camper trucks were a problem considering the fact that they were "top heavy" and reportedly were dangerous to drive. Larry Bobb operated one of the first units made, and he said that the "swaying" on the highway was a real safety problem. Slow highway speeds were required to maintain control.'



Today with the addition of an IMT team, the agency has a nice mobile command post for incidents and events. (2010 Fort Jackson exercise at the airport.)



This simple pickup camper shell was used as a command post on the famous Clear Pond Fire in 1976.



The History Corner

NOW AND THEN (continued)

The agency also converted an old, larger 2 1/2 ton military truck into a command post with similar materials inside. Miles Knight recalls, that the 'biggest thing he remembers using it for was for crowd control at a protest at the Savannah River Plant in the early 80's. There was a large group protesting nuclear waste and a large contingent of SCFC personnel were on hand. The group was marching and camping outside the SRP gate. The Commission was on-scene in case they set fires (which they didn't do) but some protestors were arrested.'

This military truck (pictured right) was struck by lightning that hit a nearby pine tree. Miles remembers seeing the Incident Commander standing in the door of the truck when it was hit with "light" all around. The post was shut down immediately and operations retreated to the motel for the rest of the night.



This military surplus vehicle was turned into a command post in the 70's. (Lois Edwards sits in the door.)

Pull types campers were acquired from federal surplus in the 80's and used around the state for an easy, very portable command post. Pop-up campers and several larger, 2-axle camper trailers were acquired from FEMA after they were used for Hurricane housing. A table for workspace or meetings, with mapping tools, etc. was inside along with a small sleeping area. The larger campers were outfitted with radios. These were positioned around the state and located at the HQ.



Pull type campers were used for Command Posts until 2008, when the new trailer was purchased.



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