

Tri-County Forestry News



Anderson, Oconee, Pickens, Greenville

Fall 2004

Forestry Meeting Notice

The Oconee Forestry landowners will meet Tuesday, October 26th at 5:30 p.m. at the Thrift Brothers Lumber Company in Westminster. In addition to their regular mill operation, we will get to see their pressure treating operation. This will give everyone a chance to see first hand the changes that have recently taken place in the production of this important product.

We plan to begin at 5:30 p.m. and eat supper after the tour. Meal cost will be approximately \$7.00 per person. Please call the Oconee Extension Office, 638-5889, by 10:00 a.m. Monday, October 25th if you plan to attend.

South Carolina Competes in National 4-H Forestry Invitational

South Carolina was among the 17 states that participated in the 25th annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational from Sunday, July 25 through Thursday, July 29. The state was represented by Ben Gibson and Jennifer Jefferson of Westminster, Weston Cobb of Long Creek and Ginger Givens of Seneca. Stanley and Daniel Gibson of Westminster coached the team. Beth

Gibson, also of Westminster, was a chaperone.

The event was held at WVU Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp and Conference Center near Weston, W. VA. The International Paper Company Foundation and the Cooperative Extension Service were sponsors.

Alabama had the top team score at the Invitational. Illinois came in second place, and Tennessee took third. Ben Gasser of Alabama received the high-point individual award. Second place was given to Alabama's Greg Gasser, and third place went to Scott Michels of Illinois. The Joe Yeager leadership award was given to Andrew Day of Florida. This award is presented to the individual who demonstrated excellent communication, management, decision-making and interpersonal skills.

At the Invitational, students compete for overall team and individual awards in several categories. Events included a forestry written exam, tree identification, tree measurement, compass orienteering, insect and disease identification, topographic map use, the Forestry Bowl and forest evaluation.

Master Wildlifer Course To Be Held

Landowners are encouraged to consider participating in a Master Wildlifer Course that will be held February through March 2005. The course will be broadcast to numerous sites throughout South Carolina and many southeastern states. There are plans to have viewing sites in Greenville, Anderson and Clemson. Call your County Extension office for details and to enroll for the course. Final details including the cost should be completed by the time you get this newsletter.

Master Wildlifer is designed for landowners, land managers, and outdoors recreationists who are interested in including wildlife considerations into their current land management activities. Practicing land managers will find the course valuable in highlighting alternative management approaches for wildlife in forest and farm settings. Special emphasis is placed on wildlife species (game species) that currently offer landowners additional sources of income through recreational access fees. Course participants will obtain the knowledge and necessary tools to enhance habitat for a variety of wildlife species that can be enjoyed themselves, family, friends, and anyone interested in wildlife.

February 1, 2005

Introduction to Wildlife Management

February 8, 2005

Ecology and Management of Small Game

February 15, 2005

Ecology and Management of White-Tailed Deer

February 22, 2005

Ecology and Management of Eastern Wild Turkey

March 1, 2005

Fishpond Management

March 8, 2005

Managing Wetlands for Waterfowl and Other Wildlife

March 15, 2005

Income Opportunities from Wildlife on Private Lands

Call your local Extension office for more information: Greenville – 323-4431; Anderson – 226-1581; Pickens – 878-1394; Oconee 638-5889.

Register Now For Convention/Summit

“Strengthening SC’s Competitive Advantage Through Clustering,” is the theme of the Governor’s Forestry Summit held in connection with SCFA’s 2004 Annual Meeting, November 3-5, Myrtle Beach, SC.

To ensure hotel accommodations, SCFA Chairman “Skeet” Burris encourages members to register early since the event will also attract a substantial number of non-members who are expected to attend the state’s first Forestry Summit.

The convention schedule is the same as previous years with the usual recreation activities, social events, business session, awards, and exhibits.

“It’s still an SCFA convention but Governor Sanford has extended the invitation to economic development leaders, business and government

officials who would benefit by attending the Summit,” Burris said.

The program will offer SCFA members and guests the chance to learn more about opportunities in forestry and explore ways to strengthen its competitive advantage through clustering. As envisioned by the SC Competitiveness Initiative, the state can capitalize on expansion of the wood and paper products industry by improving the standard of living through higher wage, knowledge-based jobs.

Convention packets have been mailed to members. Pre-registration discounts are available to those who register early.

Deadline for room reservations at the Myrtle Beach Marriott is Oct. 20.

Deadline to register for the Convention/Summit is Oct. 28.

Hunting Club Safety Points To Remember

By: Ed Wilson, Davis Garvin Agency

Risk Management Techniques: Some risk management activities that can be employed by hunting clubs and landowners to limit exposure to accidental injuries include:

- 1) **Hunt Management** – Clubs, at the minimum, should hold an annual safety meeting prior to the start of the hunting season to discuss specific club rules and safety procedures. This would also be a good time to review your lease and incorporate any specific lease requirements to the club’s procedures. A sign in/out map for hunting stands selection can be established. Stand locations should be determined

with some attention to hunter density, safety zones, and distance between hunters. It is also a good idea to assign a hunt master for high-density hunter days (Saturdays and opening week) that can control stand placement and hunting guests.

- 2) **Tree Stands** – All tree stands should be inspected prior to the hunting season. Each member should sign off on the condition of his or her own stands. All ladder and climbing stands should have harnesses available for use. A full body harness will protect the hunter should the stand fail or hunter fall. Ladder stands should be checked for any loosening of the strap holding the stand to the tree. Rails and steps should also be checked to be sure no wood is rotten and that screws and nails are secure. A safety strap can be secured around the stand and tree to provide additional security if the original belt should fail. Finally, a rope should be placed along the stand to lower and raise guns and other equipment to the sitting height. Raised platforms should also be checked to see if any weakening or shifting of the support pillars has occurred. Steps and support railings should also be checked before the start of the season. It is also important to check the floor of the platform—and ladder ropes or railing should be secured.
- 3) **Check-in Station** - All leased tracts should have a check-in station available that details stand sites and selection. Additional information to be located at the

- station includes: Emergency contact numbers, local fire department number, local emergency or ambulance service number, landowner's name and contact person, site location and direction to the site to be used to direct emergency response to the site; hunting procedures and club rules, map detailing stand sites and stand selection procedures.
- 4) **Dog/Man Drives** - During hunts where dogs or man drives are conducted, it is very important that there is a sufficient distance between shooters. Hunters should be required to maintain the stand site until the drive is finished. Drivers should have safety vests and hats that are clearly visible.
 - 5) **ATVs** – Require that ATVs be used with caution and only in areas that it is safe to do so. ATV use should be limited to established roadways and trails and their use restricted from heavily wooded areas.
 - 6) **Camping/Fires** – Many leases contain specific requirements for campfires and burn barrels. A club should have a safe fire spot and have some elementary fire fighting equipment available (fire rakes and shovels). Have specific rules about campfires and burning of litter. Require that all trash bottles and cans be disposed of properly from the sites. If the area has a permanent camp set up, have the area inspected prior to the start of the season for any electrical heating method and building defects that may need to be corrected. Have all inspections documented in writing.
 - 7) **Gates and Other Hazards** – Gates and hazards should be clearly marked and posted. If cable is used to make a gate it should be posted, clearly marked and include hazard marking screen. Gates and gate poles should be marked with reflective tape for all direction visibility. Clear brush and trees away from the gate so that it is clearly visible from the road. Any known hazards should also be marked and all hunting club members should know any logging or construction activity. Public roads running through the lease should be posted and club members should be aware that the public might use the road.
- Conclusion:** While liability concerns about leasing land are valid, they should not limit property access or recreational use. Lawsuits filed against landowners are infrequent. Landowners and hunting clubs can employ several simple techniques to limit their exposure to lawsuits and still provide ample recreational opportunities.
- During the 2002 hunting season the claim incidents reported were: tree stand incidents 30%, shootings 17%, ATV accidents 15%, fires 13%, and other 25%. Many of the accidents could be reduced or eliminated by checking club tree stands and developing club rules that control activities on the property.
- While hunting remains a safe outdoor activity, it is very important that both gun safety and hunt management are

integrated into the hunting club activities.

NOTE: Many of you may remember Ed. He has been a speaker for some of our local associations.

Weyerhaeuser Looks Abroad

By: Edwards, The News Tribune
When Steve Rogel looks around for new places to plant Weyerhaeuser Co. trees, the CEO is drawn to the Southern Hemisphere – where trees grow much faster than in Washington state.

He can get lumber from a eucalyptus tree in Uruguay in 16 years, half the time it takes for the same tree to grow at the company's tree farms in the southern United States.

“We have growth opportunities in North America, but in a way, they are relatively limited because you can only grow (as a company) to a certain size in terms of market share before our own government steps in and says you are too big,” Rogel said.

The international expansion comes at a time when Weyerhaeuser is selling forestlands in the United States and shutting processing facilities as it restructures its holdings. Still, demand for wood products is growing.

Since 1996, Weyerhaeuser has purchased thousands of acres in South America and Australia. The new international markets meet several goals:

- Cheaper production
- Easier access to growing markets in Asia.
- Diversification of the logging locations.

Some analysts would like to see Weyerhaeuser go after the international market more aggressively. “China just absolutely dominates,” said Don Roberts, an analyst for CIBC World Markets. “Both Weyerhaeuser and International Paper have been slow off the mark in putting together a China strategy. There's a whole lot of risk there, but this is a region where the changes are occurring.”

Demand for wood products in China is growing at 8 percent to 9 percent a year, said John Perez-Garcia, a professor of forest economics at the University of Washington.

“The potential for growth appears to be in the Asian markets,” he said. “The U.S. has been the growth engine for the world economy, but there are signs that other countries are emerging from their recessions.”

Weyerhaeuser has planted pine and eucalyptus trees at all of its international plantations for use in furniture. The faster growing time means that each piece of wood costs the company less.

“What tends to distinguish us from our competitors is the cost of those products,” said Gary Drobnack, president of Weyerhaeuser Forestlands International. “We need to achieve some minimum investment return. We would expect a higher return growing timber offshore than in the U.S., mostly because we understand the markets here.”

Weyerhaeuser now is the largest landowner in Uruguay. The company purchased 320,000 acres of cattle grazing land and planted rows of pine

and eucalyptus trees that will be turned into expensive decorative woods for cabinets, moldings and other products. Drobnack said he expects the mills in Uruguay to be in full operation by 2013.

Richardo Carrere, a forester and leader of the World Rainforest Movement in Montevideo, Uruguay, has been watching Weyerhaeuser since it moved in several years ago. He is the co-author of "Pulping the South: Third World Tree Plantations in the Global Paper Economy." The thousands of acres of trees are changing the ecosystem, he said.

"Probably they are not the worst company," he said. "They are probably one of the best companies, which isn't saying much."

Though the environmental impact has not been scientifically studied, Carrere said plantations owned by Weyerhaeuser and other forest products companies are changing the landscape of the grasslands. For instance, the local people have reported water shortages as the trees drain groundwater.

Company executives are already eyeing the next international expansion. Rogel expects Weyerhaeuser to add to its holdings in both South America and in Australia as the company increasingly goes after international customers.

Prescribed Fire Managers Course Offered

Land managers who conduct outdoor burning can reduce their liability by becoming Certified Prescribed Fire Managers. Training session is scheduled for January 8, 2005 in Columbia.

Conducted by the SC Forestry Commission, the one-day course teaches how to plan prescribed burns that comply with state air quality regulations. The regulations, called Smoke Management Guidelines, are mandatory for all forestry, wildlife, and agriculture burning in South Carolina.

Forestry Commission Training Director Paul Watts emphasized that the training is not a beginner's course in prescribed burning. "We're not teaching folks how to burn," he said. "This course deals with estimating smoke production, predicting smoke impacts, and legal issues."

Achieving certification provides burners with limited liability protection under state law. Requirements include passing the course, documenting one's burning experience, and agreeing to conduct all burning according to standards set forth in the SC Prescribed Fire Act.

To register for any session, contact Paul Watts, 803-896-8837. The deadline for registration is three weeks prior to the course; registration is on a first come-first served basis.

Sincerely,

Howard H. Hiller,
County Extension Agent

D. Jason Caudill
County Extension Agent

