This issue of the *SC Tree Farm News* and my comments come during a disturbing time for our country.

One toll that COVID-19 has had on this state is social distancing and elimination of the close personal contact that we enjoy. We have cancelled meetings and tours which we would have enjoyed and used to help educate us all. Zoom, WebEx, Skype, etc. just don’t cut it for me.

Although I love to stay in the woods, I am starting to struggle without the personal contact. I hope secondary impacts of the virus do not have long term effects on us all. I hope we can resume our meetings, tours, etc. shortly.

SC Tree Farm will continue to support the SC Teachers’ Tour. Although not being held as an in-person field event this year, videos, etc. will be prepared and furnished to teachers to be reviewed, and possibly used in their classes.

I’m not quite sure how all of this is ultimately going to affect our tree farms. The only thing I have noticed since people have had to stay home, is Lowes, Home Depot and the local lumber yards are moving lumber. I see more sheds, decks, and other home improvement projects under construction than I can ever remember. It also seems to have created a big demand for toilet paper since it is still in short supply. I hope this will be good for us all in the long run.

I hope my comments have found you and your families well. May God bless you and keep you safe during this trying time and remember the night is darkest just before the dawn.

Mike Meetze can be contacted at meetzefarms@aol.com
Now is a great time to get your property certified thanks to a new SC Tree Farm Certification Incentive program. This program pays the Inspecting Forester who develops the forest management plan and completes the Tree Farm Inspection to bring property into the SC Tree Farm program. This incentive means consulting foresters may be able to provide a management plan for their landowners at reduced cost and help grow the Tree Farm program at the same time. See the details and application form in this issue, and invite your landowners to become SC Tree Farmers.

Guy R. Sabin
SC Tree Farm’s State Administrator
treefarm@scforestry.org, 803/798-4170

Welcome to this issue of SC Tree Farm NEWS – a publication of the South Carolina Tree Farm Committee. It provides a vibrant reflection of the myriad aspects of SC Tree Farming. Am so proud of the great work of our Tree Farmers and Committee. Thank you all!

Frances L. Taylor, Forestry Association Communications Director & FASC Tree Farm Committee representative
803/798-4170 or scfa@scforestry.org

ISSUE TWO 2020/SC Tree Farm News/Page 3
By: Guy Sabin, SC Tree Farm’s State Administrator

Some Tree Farm Inspectors have the idea that a forest management plan is a difficult, cumbersome document that is time-consuming to produce. For landowners who want to be fully certified Tree Farmers a plan is required, and the truth is that completing a plan is probably not as difficult as you might think.

Take a look at the SC Tree Farm Management Plan Template at https://www.sctreefarm.org/tree-farm-certification-program.htm for an example of how easy developing a plan can be. Chances are that all required topics are things that you are already familiar with, and things that you would take note of as a matter of course with any landowner you may be working with. It is surprisingly simple to check a few extra resources if needed and document what you have already done to meet the Tree Farm Standards. The template gives you a good guide to start with, and you are also free to change the document as desired just as long as all the required elements are included.

During our last South Carolina Tree Farm audit by Pricewaterhouse Coopers the most commonly missing items in management plans were elements that did not apply to that particular property. However, all required elements must be addressed even if only to acknowledge that they are not applicable. Endangered species, for example, apply to few Tree Farms but still require a statement in the management plan indicating that there are no known occurrences of rare, threatened, or endangered species on the property. This may require a quick check with the SC Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NatureServe, or similar resources to confirm.

Likewise, information on invasive species, Forest of Recognized Importance, and other factors must also be addressed. The SC Department of Archives and History is an excellent online resource for historical sites, and similar resources are available for other required elements. Altogether, gathering the addi-
tional information needed and completing a Tree Farm management plan should be measured in hours, not in days.

Now is a great time to bring new landowners into SC Tree Farm and take advantage of the new Certification Incentive program. SC Tree Farm is offering payment to foresters who write the management plan and complete the inspection form to help offset costs of helping a landowner become fully Tree Farm certified. The Incentive pays $500 for up to 200 acres certified and $750 for 200 acres or more. See more details on the Incentive program and the application form in this newsletter and on the SC Tree Farm website at www.sctreefarm.org

The Tree Farm management plan template and SC Certification Incentives are available for use now. In the near future, we hope to see even more resources such as the SC Landscape Management Plan, WoodsCamp, and possibly even additional incentives for certification. Now is a great time to invite your landowners to join the SC Tree Farm program.

Guy Sabin can be reached at 803/798-4170 or by emailing to treefarm@scforestry.org

Sara E. Anrrich, Senior Manager, Southern Biodiversity Conservation
American Forest Foundation, Washington, DC

There is a lot riding on the forests of the southeastern US. According to the American Forest Foundation’s (AFF) Southern Wildlife at Risk: Family Forest Owners Offer a Solution report, southern forests support nearly 1.1 million people in rural communities with employment, while at the same time provide habitat to 224 forest-dependent species currently listed as endangered or threatened. Because family landowners own nearly 60% of southern forests, they play a vital role in protecting wildlife habitat, meeting demand for wood products, and maintaining overall forest health across the region.

One way AFF is supporting family forest owners in the southeast is through a partnership with the US Fish & Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program to provide technical and financial assistance directly to landowners to support forest management and improve habitat for at-risk wildlife.

In South Carolina, the goal for this partnership is to enhance habitat across parts of the sandhills and coastal plain for at-risk species including gopher tortoise, Florida pine snake, gopher frog, eastern diamondback rattlesnake, and the frosted elfin butterfly. Participating landowners will receive technical and financial assistance for habitat improvement activities including:

- Hardwood/mid-story control
- Invasive species control
- Prescribed burning
- Native ground cover establishment
- Site preparation
- Longleaf pine planting

In addition, AFF and USFWS will provide resources to complete a species inventory or a habitat quality survey for at-risk species on the property. Working with landowners, the USFWS and AFF will monitor the improvement of the at-risk species habitat through the agreement period.

“Having accurate species and habitat data for at-risk wildlife on private lands is critical to our understanding of forest biodiversity and health throughout the southeast,” said Sara Anrich, Senior Manager, Southern Biodiversity Conservation at AFF. “Working proactively, together with the USFWS and family forest owners, we can improve habitat for at-risk wildlife species so that South Carolina and southeastern forests can continue to provide important economic and social benefits to the region.”

Interested landowners can obtain more information on the initiative, and discuss their eligibility, by contacting Greg Pate (919/922-1539; greg.pate@fourwforestrygroup.com) or Bret Beasley (843/300-0433; bret_beasley@fws.gov).

Sara E. Anrich can be reached at 202/765-3376 or sanrich@forestfoundation.org

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**Required Elements For All Tree Farm Management Plans**

- Forest Health
- Soil
- Water
- Wood and Fiber Production
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Special Sites
- Invasive Species
- Forests of Recognized Importance

**Required Elements Where Applicable**

- Prescribed Fire
- Wetlands
- Desired Species
- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- Biomass
- Carbon

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**Habitat Improvement Initiative For SC Landowners**

Sara E. Anrrich, Senior Manager, Southern Biodiversity Conservation
American Forest Foundation, Washington, DC

replicatall/Shutterstock.com
NINE, EIGHTY FOOT POLES ON POLE TRAILER -- 31 TONS -- ARE HEADED TO THE MILL AFTER BEING HARVESTED FROM WALT McPHAIL'S NINETY-SIX TRACT ON APRIL 26, 2020. McPhail, 2012 National Tree Farmer of the Year and 2011 National Forest Landowner of the Year, says, "As Tree Farmers, we want to grow a large, tall, high quality pine tree with a clean stem and well developed crown while enhancing wildlife habitat and aesthetics. Growing trees is like growing your garden. Plant in good soil, prepare a good seed bed, plant the best seedlings, control undesirable competition, provide nutrients and abundant growing space for a bountiful harvest."

**RUNNING THE NUMBERS ON THIS HARVEST:** 40 acres planted in 1981; DBH average 19 inches; actual height 91+ ft.; 50 year site index of 85 indicated by soil survey books ("The trees didn't read the books," McPhail says.); two previous thinnings; harvested 4 loads per acre, 50% sawtimber and poles; 160 loads -- including 23 loads of pulpwood tops, 1 load of chip-n-saw, 58 loads of sawtimber, 9 loads of oversized sawtimber, 11 loads of distribution poles, and 58 loads of transmission poles over 65 feet long.

Note: Because of the high number of poles, this property returned $4,000 per acre.
Editor’s note: Since content usually featured in our July issue was not available this year, I’ve assembled this collection of images reflecting a variety of interesting aspects of Tree Farming/forestry. Special thanks to James Simons, Jr. of James M. Simons & Co., Inc., Holly Hill, SC who took the photos featured here. -- FT

A prescribed fire being supervised by beloved dog, Tally, in Holly Hill, SC

Longleaf pine in grass stage in Holly Hill, SC

The marbled salamander is native to the SE
Sending A Message

SC Tree Farmers find creative ways to post their property to discourage trespassers.

- Ken Caldwell of Chester, SC is a Tree Farm landowner and Inspector. The photo of his sign was taken by Guy Sabin, SC Tree Farm Administrator.
- Bottom sign photo was taken by James Simons, Jr., of James M. Simons & Co, Inc., Holly Hill, SC on a client’s property, St. Helena Island, SC.

Feathers with morning dew

A tree frog peeks at the camera
DISTRICTS 1 and 4

LeGrand Guerry Burnett
Tree Farms in Pickens County & Greenwood County

OCCUPATION: small business owner and real estate broker/retired

NOMINATED BY:
Walt McPhail, 2012 National Tree Farmer of the Year
Jim Potts, Consulting Forester

Guerry Burnett owns 400 woodland acres which have been under a written forest management plan since Aug. 2002. The property became a certified Tree Farm on Dec. 12, 2003. Primary objectives are timber, wildlife, recreation, and financial.

Burnett maximizes every opportunity to learn more about forest management and Tree Farming. He has attended: six SC Tree Farm Legislative Days; eight Forestry Association of South Carolina Annual Meetings; a National Tree Farm tour to Germany; and numerous other tree farm/forestry tours including six Annual Field Tours hosted by the SC Tree Farm Committee on properties owned by SC Tree Farmers of the Year.

Becoming an American Tree Farmer has been a tremendous benefit to me for the following reasons:

- Having a Tree Farm management plan for my forest
- Best source of information for a landowner to learn good forestry and environmental practices
- Vigilant focus on legislative advocacy for forestry and landowner issues
- Landowner networking that promotes certification for the small forest landowner in the American Tree Farm System
- Emphasis on the practice of good stewardship for an important sustainable resource

Bottom Line: It’s the right thing to do!  -- Guerry Burnett

Burnett is a member of:

- Forestry Association of South Carolina
- Forest Landowners Association
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Quality Deer Management Association
- Greenville Forestry and Wildlife Society -- Vice Chair in charge of networking and meals for over 15 years.

Contact information for Guerry Burnett: guerry62@gmail.com
Contact information for Walt McPhail: treevetsc@aol.com
Contact information for Jim Potts: jamesbpottsjr@charter.net

"Guerry Burnett is an outstanding advocate and ‘poster child’ for the American Tree Farm Program," says Walt McPhail, 2012 National Tree Farmer of the Year. "His turning point on forest management began when he received his Tree Farm Management Plan from Jimmy Potts in 2002. Guerry utilizes good forest management practices on his farms and shares his knowledge and enthusiasm with forest landowners. He is a charter member of the Greenville Forestry & Wildlife Society, serving as Vice Chair and providing meals for meetings for 15 years. He’s directly responsible for 5 landowners joining the Tree Farm program and the Greenville Forestry & Wildlife Society with over 1,000 acres. He is very active in statewide Tree Farm activities, speaking at county forestry meetings, attending state Tree Farm tours, and Tree Farm Legislative Days. He goes above and beyond to promote sustainable forestry and the Tree Farm program."
South Carolina Tree Farm offers assistance to increase certification of sustainable forestry. A written forest management plan and inspection, along with membership, are required to be a fully certified Tree Farmer. Foresters are eligible for this program to help landowners become certified.

ELIGIBILITY
- The landowner must become a member of the SC Tree Farm program with property meeting American Tree Farm System eligibility requirements and not currently certified.
- The Forester must be a Tree Farm Inspector who completes both the forest management plan and Tree Farm Inspection for properties not currently certified.
- Upon certification in the state program, the Forester may apply to receive $500 for Tree Farms of less than 200 acres, or $750 for Tree Farms of 200 acres or more.
- A Forester may apply for pre-approval of funding valid for three months after approval dates.
- A maximum of $3,000 per year will be allowed per Forester or consulting firm. Government-employed foresters are not eligible.
- Funding is limited and this program may be discontinued at any time.

APPLICATION
Name
Company
Address
City State Zip Code
Phone Mobile
Email
Tree Farm Number Forested Acres
Did you write the complete forest management plan? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Return application to:
Guy Sabin, SC Tree Farm, 4901 Broad River Road, Columbia SC 29212
Email: Guy Sabin at treefarm@scforestry.org
Name _________________________________________Contact Person _________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________________________________________________
City _________________________________________________________________ State___________ Zip__________________
Home Phone____________________________ Work Phone_________________________ Cell Phone ______________________
County that Tree Farm is located in________________________________________________________________________
(Print) Email Address____________________________________________________________

Membership Categories:  
☑ Individual Family Unit - Husband/Wife/Children  ☐ Business or Organization

I would like to join the South Carolina Tree Farm Grassroots Advocacy Group on forestry issues  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

Do you have a Tree Farm management plan?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  Date plan was prepared and/or updated_____________________
Number of forested acres______________________________________________
Do you have a Tree Farm number?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  If yes, please provide your Tree Farm number_____________________
Do you have a forester you consult?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No
Forester’s Name and Company___________________________________________________________________________________

Payment  Total amount submitted_______________________________________
Check (payable to SC Tree Farm Program)
Credit Card:  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ Other______________________________________________
Card #____________________________________________________ Exp.________ Security Code_____________________
Name (as it appears on card)__________________________________________Billing Zip Code_____________________

Send completed form and payment to:
South Carolina Tree Farm  
ATTN: Guy Sabin/State Administrator  
4901 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212

Ask your fellow woodland owners to join! Additional forms are available from treefarm@scforestry.org or call Guy Sabin at 803/798-4170.
The South Carolina Tree Farm Program supports sustainable management of family owned forest lands for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation.

TREE FARMER MEMBERSHIP. Membership is open to anyone interested in promoting good forestry, with or without property eligible for certification.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION. Minimum of ten acres forestland with a written Tree Farm/Stewardship management plan and Tree Farm Inspection.

www.MyLandPlan.com is available on the web to help you manage your property.

WHAT YOU’LL RECEIVE
- Quarterly Woodland Magazine
- Semi-Annual South Carolina Tree Farm News
- Invitations to SC Tree Farmer of the Year Annual Tour & Forestry Education opportunities
- Emails on forestry educational meetings and advocacy issues

For more information, contact Walt McPhail, National Tree Farmer of the Year 2012 and SC Tree Farm Membership Chair, 864/288-7618 or treevetsc@aol.com

BENEFITS OF BEING A TREE FARMER

- MEMBERSHIP: Provides you with membership in a national organization that is a leader in representing private landowners, keeps you abreast of new developments and political trends, gives you a voice in decisions affecting land management, and provides you with an opportunity to shape the future.

- NETWORKING: Making connections with other landowners, sharing ideas, learning from each other, connecting with professional foresters, avoiding problems others have had, becoming part of a community that works together for better land management.

- RECOGNITION: The green and white diamond shaped Tree Farm sign recognizes Tree Farmers for meeting the standards of the Tree Farm System with a written, approved management plan. We’re proud to be Tree Farmers.

- CERTIFICATION: Tree Farm Certification that meets international, third party standards of sustainable forest management may provide greater access to markets with more bids on your timber, potentially higher timber prices and preference when mills are on quota.

- EDUCATION: Landowner education programs, tours, and field trips are provided for forest landowners. Tree Farm foresters provide on the ground assistance during initial and reinspections.

- ADVOCACY: Tree Farm advocacy protects your property rights and the right to grow timber in South Carolina. Federal advocacy by National Tree Farm staff and local SC grassroots efforts have been instrumental in keeping the current capital gains tax and raising the estate tax exemption levels to help keep your farm in the family.

The National Tree Farm staff works on issues related to Tree Farming, soil and water conservation, and much more.

SC Tree Farm works closely with the Forestry Association of SC on state and local issues to ensure we will continue to have healthy, working forests for future generations.

If you’re not a landowner or interested in certification you can still receive benefits of membership via the Friends And Supporters category for $60/year.

South Carolina Tree Farm, ATTN: Guy Sabin/State Administrator, 4901 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212
803/798-4170, treefarm@scforestry.org
SC Tree Farm Committee DIRECTORY

BOARD
Chair Mike Meetze [2019-2021]
2013 SC Tree Farmer Of The Year
Member [2015-2024]
458 Piester Rd., Newberry, SC 29108
803/276-2696 or meetze@ascom.com

Past Chair Wallace B. Wood, Jr. [2018-2020]
2011 SC Tree Farmer Of The Year
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Member [2017-2024]
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442 Dandridge Rd., Walterboro, SC 29488
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Member [2017-2024]
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ISSUE TWO 2020/SC Tree Farm News/Page 14

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Dr. Knowlton Johnson
2018 SC Tree Farmer Of The Year
Member [2019-2024]
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2012 National Tree Farmer of the Year
2001 SC Tree Farmer Of The Year
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Member [2015-2024]
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South Carolina Tree Farm DISTRICTS

County
Abbeville
Aiken
Allendale
Anderson
Bamberg
Barnwell
Beaufort
Berkeley
Calhoun
Charleston
Clarendon
Colleton
Columbia
Dillon
Dorchester
Edgefield
Fairfield
Florence
Georgetown
Greenville

District
Greenwood
Hampton
Horry
Jasper
Kershaw
Lancaster
Laurens
Lee
Lexington
Marion
Marlboro
Orangeburg
Pickens
Richland
Saluda
Spartanburg
Sumter
Union
Williamsburg
York

ISSUE TWO 2020/SC Tree Farm News/Page 15
The Annual Tree Farm Forest Owners Program is slated for Nov. 11, 2020 on opening day of the Forestry Association’s Annual Meeting at Myrtle Beach Marriott at Grande Dunes, Myrtle Beach, SC. The program will feature a tour of Resource Management Service’s property in Georgetown, SC. Program chairs are Walt McPhail, 2012 National Tree Farmer of the Year, Mauldin, SC, and Joey A. Ferguson, RMS Region Manager, Georgetown, SC.

SC TREE FARM
CONTACT INFORMATION
Email: treefarm@scforestry.org
Write: South Carolina Tree Farm
4901 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212

Reeognition Corner

National Tree Farmers of the Year
2000 Dr. A. G. “Skeet” and Gail Burris, Cummings, SC
2012 Dr. Walter A. McPhail, Mauldin, SC

Regional Tree Farmers of the Year from SC
1996 Dr. A. G. “Skeet” and Gail Burris, Cummings, SC
2000 Dr. A. G. “Skeet” and Gail Burris, Cummings, SC
2003 Dr. Walter A. McPhail, Mauldin, SC
2004 John & Mary Rebecca Spearman, Lane, SC
2005 Dyches Family, Savannah, GA
2007 Johnley L. Haralson, Denmark, SC
2012 Dr. Walter A. McPhail, Mauldin, SC

SC Tree Farmer of the Year Winners
80-'81 S. Guerry Stukes, Summerton, SC
81-'82 Ben S. Williamson, Darlington, SC
1982 Mary Julia Royall, Mt. Pleasant, SC
83-'84 Rufus B. Lawrimore, Hemingway, SC
84-'85 Brookes Lawton, Allendale, SC
85-'86 John W. Kemp, Jr., Edgefield, SC
86-'87 Charles W. Redfearn, Beaufort, SC
87-'88 Carroll & Jane Brown, Colleton Co.
88-'89 John Carter, Sharon, SC
89-'90 James W. Hunt, Jr., Eastover, SC
90-'91 Robert Cecil Gentry, Salem, SC
91-'92 Tom Turner, Rock Hill, SC
92-'93 Francis A. Snelgrove, Lexington, SC
93-'94 W. R. “Roy” Watkins, Cassatt, SC
1995 Dr. A. G. “Skeet” Burris, Beaufort, SC
1996 Gordon E. Gale, Hardeeville, SC
1997 William E. Eutisler, Cheraw, SC
1998 Randell C. Ewing, Hartsville, SC
1999 John Spearman (Deer Hill), Lane, SC
2000 Fred Gantt, Columbia, SC
2001 Dr. Walter A. McPhail, Mauldin, SC
2002 Dyches Family, Savannah, GA
2003 John M. McPhail, Abbeville, SC
2004 Johnley L. Haralson, Denmark, SC
2005 Bookman Station, LLC, Columbia, SC
2007 Ben Herlong, Saluda, SC
2008 Edward R. Drayton, Hartsville, SC
2009 Mark T. Jones, Piedmont, SC
2010 Dennis L. Bauknight, Easley, SC
2011 Wallace B. Wood, Jr., Parksville, SC
2012 Joanna Angle, Chester, SC
2013 Mike Meeteze, Newberry, SC
2014 Jimmy C. Sanders, Greenwood, SC
2015 William P. Cate, Eastover, SC
2016 The McKinney Family, Clinton, SC
2017 W. Patrick “Pat” Dorn, Jr.
2018 Knowlton W. Johnson
2019 W. McLeod Rhodes

National Tree Farm Inspector of the Year
2000 Tom W. Patton, Jr., Columbia, SC
2002 Jeffrey G. Brown, Elgin, SC
2009 J. Kirk Weyman, Anderson, SC
2012 Robert “Bob” G. Miller, Kinards, SC
2013 McCullough Ardrey, Lancaster, SC
2015 Tom W. Patton, Jr., Columbia, SC
2017 Dr. A. G. “Skeet” Burris, Cummings, SC
Note: Dr. A. G. “Skeet” Burris, Cummings, SC, was instrumental in establishing the award. Burris named the award after Dr. George D. Kessler in honor of his service to the SC Tree Farm program.

Southerm Regional Tree Farm Inspector of the Year Recipient
2010 J. Kirk Weyman, Anderson, SC
2012 Tom W. Patton, Jr., Columbia, SC
2017 J. Kirk Weyman, Anderson, SC
2018 Dr. George D. Kessler

George D. Kessler
SC Tree Farm Inspector of the Year Recipients
2000 Tom W. Patton, Jr., Columbia, SC
2003 Jeffrey G. Brown, Elgin, SC
2009 J. Kirk Weyman, Anderson, SC
2012 Robert “Bob” G. Miller, Kinards, SC
2013 McCullough Ardrey, Lancaster, SC

National Field Leadership Award Recipient
2005 Jeff Brown, Elgin, SC

National Leadership Award Recipient
2018 Dr. George D. Kessler