

Andrew Taylor – steward of family farm *Minority Landowner Magazine*



A Mr. Andrew Taylor and Caswell County Ranger Steve Thompson discuss Forest Stewardship objectives on his property.

Andrew Taylor was like many landowners who are unsure of the best approach to take in managing their own forestland, until he discovered North Carolina's Forest Stewardship Program.

The Forest Stewardship program is designed to encourage and help those who want to manage their forestland for its natural beauty, wildlife habitat, recreation, or productive timber. The program is also intended to help landowners protect clean water through appropriate soil conservation practices.

Taylor's journey into stewardship began when he decided to sell timber on the 100 acres of the 320 acre family farm in Caswell County that he owns with his siblings. At the time he didn't know the N.C. Division of Forest Resources (also known as the N.C. Forest Service) was available to help him and sought the help of a timber buyer.

Taylor and his siblings grew up on the farmland, which has been in the family since 1892. However, little work had been done on the land for a long time, a situation Mr. Taylor wished to correct by

becoming a good steward of his land.

After reading about a landowner meeting in the newspaper, Taylor decided to attend and was introduced to David Halley, a consulting forester, and discovered all the benefits of working with the N.C. Forest Service and the Forest Stewardship Program. Part of the meeting involved a tour of properties that had been managed for forestry. Taylor approached the consulting forester about his own property and later the two would tour the family farm where Halley made some suggestions, including working with the N.C. Division of Forest Resources. Taylor admits that he didn't know the services that were available to him until he met Halley.

"There is a lot of information I could've had before I planted, a lot of stuff I had done on my own, stuff that came naturally as an old farm boy, but I still needed help, I was just asking the wrong people," Taylor said. "After I got involved with the [North Carolina] Forest Service things became productive."

Steve Thompson, Caswell County Ranger, wants people to know that there are services available to landowners through the N.C. Division of Forest Resources.

"Ideally, we will write a management plan that works with the landowners objectives," Thompson said. "Some of Mr. Taylor's stands are not healthy enough to be productive so we're working with him on that," Thompson said. "Some of what they are doing includes some site prep work on areas that he wants to plant on several acres. Mr. Taylor has an interest in the land and he's willing to do the work," Thompson added.

Taylor's other goals include restoring trees in harvested areas, thinning trees under the southern pine beetle program and wildlife management. A hunt club leases the property and

Taylor - continued on page 2

Lifetime of service earns Wilder a spot in 4-H hall of fame

By Jamie Kritzer, DENR Office of Public Affairs

One of the first organizations Manly Wilder ever joined is now honoring him more than a half century later.

Wilder is among 100 North Carolinians recently inducted as charter members of the North Carolina 4-H Hall of Fame.

Wilder, the chief deputy secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources since March, joined 4-H as a

youngster growing up on a tobacco farm in Nash County.

"4-H was one of the few organizations that rural kids could get involved with," Wilder said. "It was a great way for rural kids to learn to operate independently and work on projects and develop leadership and citizenship skills."

As a young 4-H member, Wilder's father would let him tend an area of the family farm and monitor the progress of the

WILDER - continued on page 2



helps him with keeping the borders well marked.

“If people’s goals change we’ll steer them in the right direction.” Thompson said.

He added that the N.C. Forest Service tries to look at all the objectives of the landowner and works together with other agencies to help them achieve the goals outlined in their stewardship plan. Any good stewardship plan will incorporate a number of public agencies working together to assist landowners by providing educational, technical, and financial assistance, according to Thompson. These resource professionals help landowners realize the benefits of being good forest stewards.

“The key to the success of the Taylor property, or any stewardship property, is to have good communications between the landowner, the consultant, the N.C. Forest Service and any other agencies that are integral to the plan,” Thompson said.

The Forest Stewardship Program recognizes landowners that promote total forest resource management and offers technical assistance in developing stewardship management plans based on the landowner’s objectives. The time

schedule for completing the plan is based on the landowner’s resources and ability to conduct the work, with the recommendations focusing on practical modifications of existing conditions rather than costly investment. The program is open to any private landowner who has 10 acres or more of forestland.

Thompson says they get a lot of work through word of mouth, sometimes more than they can handle. In fact, while in the process of helping Mr. Taylor they were introduced to his neighbor who is now also receiving services from the Forest Service and engaged in Forest Stewardship activities in as well. Taylor’s family, who owns the other 220 acres of land, also has a stewardship plan in place.

Mr. Taylor wishes he had known about the opportunities the Forest Service offered earlier but says that he is pleased to be able to move ahead with their assistance in the future. His main goal is to create a healthy stewardship property for all the children and grandchildren of his family so the Taylor family legacy will continue for generations to come.

Lifetime of service earns Wilder a spot in 4-H hall of fame - continued

tobacco or corn they were growing that year. He would take meticulous records about how his crops performed during the year and the profits they generated. Then, he would give presentations about his projects to other 4-H groups. Many times, 4-H members earned their stripes through public speaking contests.

Other times of year, 4-H would encourage kids to help a cause. Among others, Wilder raised money for the March of Dimes.

Wilder recalls how the projects he completed in the 4-H club sowed the seeds for many of the leadership roles he’s held since then, including the 36 years he spent with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and his last four years in DENR.

“Rural youth in the ‘50s had limited opportunities such as 4-H or Future Farmers of America,” Wilder said. “Kids growing up today have many more opportunities to get involved. I encourage kids today to seek out those opportunities.”

As an adult, Wilder and his wife, Peggy, have provided support and donations to the 4-H organization, the state museum and the club’s national conference center in Bethesda, Md.

Leaders in the state 4-H program decided to create a hall of fame to coincide

with the 100th anniversary of the club’s creation in North Carolina. A ceremony was held July 21 to honor 100 of state’s most noteworthy 4-H members as charter members of the North Carolina 4-H Hall of Fame.

“We were looking for people who significantly supported 4-H financially or through volunteer work, and Manly was a natural fit,” said Marshall Stewart, the state 4-H leader. “One thing you find out about 4-H is once people get into it, they never leave. Manly epitomizes that lifetime of service to 4-H.”



Manly Wilder, DENR’s chief deputy secretary, was inducted into the North Carolina 4-H Hall of Fame.

Guidelines set for acceptable agricultural burning

Farmers will have more specific guidelines for acceptable outdoor burning under an agreement that state environmental and agricultural officials signed recently.

The memorandum of understanding between the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Division of Air Quality and the N.C.

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) sets guidelines for acceptable burning at farms, primarily to control diseases or pests as well as some crop residues. Although it remains illegal to burn man-made materials, the state open burning rule allows some exceptions for the burning of plant

materials — such as land-clearing and acceptable agricultural practices.

“The purpose of this agreement is to better manage agricultural burning so we can minimize the effects of air pollution on people,” said DAQ Director Keith Overcash. “Smoke is unhealthy to breathe and harms the environment, but we recognize that there are situations where farmers may need to burn crop debris in order to control diseases, pests and other problems.”

Under the state open burning rule, it is always illegal to burn man-made materials such as trash, paper, lumber, tires, plastics and chemicals. The rule allows exceptions for certain burning of trees, crop residues and other vegetative matter but doesn't provide specific guidelines on acceptable agricultural burning.

Under the new agreement signed by DAQ and NCDA&CS, it remains illegal for anyone to burn man-made materials. However, farmers may burn crop residues, tree trimmings and other vegetative matter to control diseases and pests. Farmers also may be able to burn crop residues when NCDA&CS considers it an acceptable practice, but the agreement discourages burning when better alternatives such as no-till agriculture are available.

“This agreement provides clear guidance about the acceptable uses of burning for agronomic purposes,” said Dewitt Hardee, NCDA&CS environmental programs manager, who worked on the agreement with DAQ staff.

North Carolina law prohibits most open burning because the smoke from outdoor fires can cause serious health problems and pollute the air. For

example, a recent study by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found that backyard burning of trash from a family of four can emit as much of some toxic pollutants, such as dioxin and furan, as a well-controlled municipal incinerator serving tens of thousands of households.

Homeowners can burn yard trimmings — excluding stumps and logs more than six inches in diameter — if it's allowed under local ordinances, no public pickup is available and it doesn't cause a public nuisance. Other allowable burning includes fireplaces, campfires, outdoor barbecues and bonfires for festive occasions. Landowners may be allowed to burn vegetation to clear land or clean up storm debris, but they should check first with the nearest DAQ regional office. People seeking to burn also may need permits from the Division of Forest Resources.

Under the open burning rule, the DAQ can assess fines as high as \$25,000 per violation, but most fines are less than \$1,000 for first-time offenders. Larger fines can be assessed in cases involving repeat violations, and people who knowingly violate the law.

A free brochure describing what is allowed and prohibited under the open burning rule can be obtained by calling (919) 733-3340, or writing to the Division of Air Quality at 1641 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1641, or visiting the DAQ Web site at www.ncair.org.



Why Leaves Change Color in the Fall

Prepared by Dr. Robert Bardon
Extension Specialist

Every year at this time we revel in the beauty of the trees, knowing well that it is only a fleeting pleasure. Before long the leaves will flutter away from their summer home and become a part of the rich carpet that covers the forest floor. Many people suppose that Jack Frost is responsible for the color change, but we now know that change in coloring is the result of chemical processes which take place in the tree as the season changes from summer to winter.

All during spring and summer the leaves have served as factories where most of the foods necessary for the trees' growth are manufactured. This food-making process takes place in the leaf (Figure 1) in numerous cells containing the pigment chlorophyll, which gives the leaf its green color. Along with the green pigment leaves also contain yellow or orange carotenoids which, for example, give the carrot its familiar color. Most of the year these yellowish colors are masked by the greater amount of green coloring. But in the fall, partly because of changes in the period of daylight and changes in temperature, the leaves stop their food-making process. The chlorophyll breaks down, the green color disappears, and the yellowish colors become visible and give the leaves part of their fall splendor.

At the same time other chemical changes may occur and cause the formation of additional pigments that vary from yellow to red to blue. Some of them give rise to the reddish and purplish fall colors of leaves of trees such as dogwoods and sumacs. Others give the sugar maple its brilliant orange or fiery red and yellow. The autumn foliage of some trees, such as quaking aspen, birch, and hickory, shows only yellow colors. Many oaks and others are mostly brownish, while beech turns golden bronze. These colors are due to the mixing of varying amounts of the chlorophyll and other pigments in the leaf during the fall season.

Fall weather conditions favoring formation of brilliant red autumn color are warm sunny days followed by cool, nights with temperatures below 45° F. Much sugar is made in the leaves during the daytime, but cool nights prevent movement of sugar from the leaves. From the sugars trapped in the leaves the red pigment called anthocyanin is formed.

The degree of color may vary from tree to tree. For example, leaves directly exposed to the sun may turn red, while those on the shady side of the same tree or on other trees in the shade may be yellow. The foliage of some tree species just turns dull brown from death and decay and never shows bright colors.

Also, the colors on the same tree may vary from year to year, depending upon the combination of weather conditions. The most vivid colors appear after a warm dry summer and early autumn rains which prevent early leaf fall. Long periods of wet weather in late fall produces a rather drab coloration. Droughts favor anthocyanin formation principally due to the indirect effects of soil water deficiency upon the metabolism of the plants. Drought conditions also favor red pigment formation due to the reduction of nitrate absorption.

As the fall colors appear, other changes are taking place. At the base of the leafstalk where it is attached to the twig, a special layer of cells develops and gradually severs the tissues that support the leaf. At the same time Nature heals the break, so that after the leaf is finally blown off by the wind or has fallen from its own weight, the place where it grew on the twig is marked by a leaf scar.

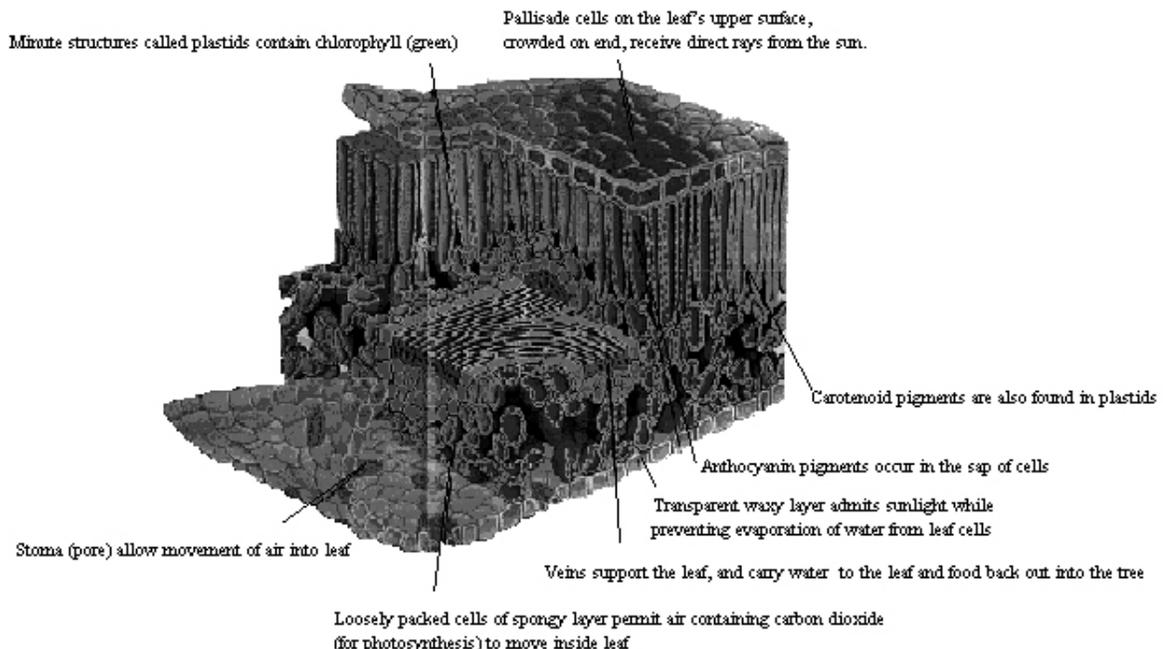
Through fallen leaves, Nature has provided for a fertile forest floor. Fallen leaves contain relatively large amounts of valuable elements, particularly calcium and potassium, which were originally a part of the soil. Decomposition of the leaves enriches the top layers of the soil by returning part of the elements borrowed by the tree and at the same time provides for more water-absorbing humus.

Some of the most startling color combinations are to be found in the leaves of red and sugar maples, sassafras, sumac, blackgum, sweetgum, Northern red oak, scarlet oak, sour-wood, and dogwood. Gingko, hickory, and yellow poplar produce few if any anthocyanins and usually just display a golden yellow.

North Carolina leads the parade for leaf lookers, and depending upon the season, the species of trees involved, and the relative proportion of the three pigments, just about every imaginable color combination may be seen.

Prepared by Dr. Robert Bardon Extension Specialist

Figure 1



DENR and local agency restore creek in Henderson County

By Cindy Draughon
N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation

A massive restoration project on Finley Creek in Henderson County was designed by an engineer from the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation and carried out using a \$90,000 grant from the state Division of Water Resources.

During the past century, the creek's natural meandering had been straightened by human intervention for agricultural purposes. When heavy rains fell, rushing water eroded the stream bank and cut new channels through the meadow as rainwater followed the path of least resistance.

To realign the creek, Jeff Young, an environmental engineer with the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation, studied the stream channel and the natural contour of the land to design a water flow pattern that resembled the creek's natural flow.

The section of creek he worked on was 1,200 linear feet before the work began, and is now 1,500 feet, gently curving through the meadow in an "S" shape. Native grasses, willows and other plants were added to create a natural buffer along the stream that will also provide wildlife habitat. Some of the new plantings will take about 10 years to mature.

The new design was a success, as evidenced by the fact that the site sustained no damage despite recent downpours. The Finley Creek project was unique.

"The property owner let me use the entire meadow for the project," Young said. "Seldom do you get to fully restore a stream."

Before



After



Rhododendron expansion may increase the chance of landslides on southern appalachian slopes, study finds

Research by U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station (SRS) scientists and partners suggests that the expansion of rosebay rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) in Southern Appalachian mountain hollows may increase the likelihood of landslides during and after intense rain events.

In an article recently published online in *JGR-Earth Surface*, SRS researchers Chelcy Ford and Jim Vose, along with T.C. Hales and Larry Band (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), examine how the interaction between topography and the species of tree or shrub present affects the ability of soil to hold together.

"We found that rhododendron had the shallowest, weakest roots suggesting that the recent expansion of this species may have lowered the cohesive strength of soil in some hollows," says Vose, research ecologist and project leader of the SRS Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory located near Otto, N.C. "Since debris flows usually start in the hollows, those dominated by rhododendron could represent a heightened hazard for landslides."

Landslides present a significant danger in the steep landscapes of the Southern Appalachians. Most of the recorded high rainfall events in the area occur in the fall and have been associated with tropical storms. In 1940, 1969, and 2004, intense rain from hurricanes caused landslides that together resulted in over 190 human casualties and \$140 million in damage.

In 2004, rains from Hurricanes Frances and Ivan caused a large landslide at Peeks Creek in Macon County, N.C., where 15 homes were destroyed, two people injured, and five people killed. With accelerating land use change and more frequent storms predicted for the area under climate change scenarios, concern about landslides has grown.



"Roots of trees and shrubs can represent up to 100 percent of what's holding soil together and keeping mountain slopes from sliding," says Vose, "For this study, we measured the root distribution and tensile strength—roughly, the force required to pull a root to the point where it breaks apart—of 15 southern Appalachian species in relation to topography and position on slopes."

The researchers dug pits down slope from 15 individual trees on the Coweeta site. The locations of trees varied from noses—convex topographic positions—to hollows. The trees included native species of oak, eastern hemlock, birch, tulip poplar, hickory, and other species. The researchers tested one woody shrub, *Rhododendron maximum*, a native species which has come to dominate the forest understory in some areas of the Southern Appalachians.

"We found that root strength was similar among tree species, and root strength of trees was consistently greater than that of the native shrub rhododendron," says Vose. "Tree roots in nose positions were stronger compared to those in hollows, coincident with greater root cellulose content."

Although the study was not designed to firmly establish cause and effect, the results suggest that rhododendron may be a key species affecting landslide initiation in the southern Appalachians. "Landslide events during 2004 commonly started in rhododendron thickets, including the only landslide to occur in the Coweeta drainage basin," says Vose. "The largest landslide from 2004 at Peeks Creek also formed in a rhododendron thicket."

For more information: Jim Vose at 828-524-2128, x114 or jvose@fs.fed.us.

The full text of the article can be found online at <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/33547>.

To offset greenhouse gas damage caused from California wildfires during 2001-2007, State's 14 million cars would need to be locked in garages for 3 1/2 years, study finds

A raging wildfire can burn out of control for a long period of time, but eventually it will be extinguished. However, the effects of that wildfire can linger for years and be a prime contributor to global warming.

A study by Dr. Thomas M. Bonnicksen, Professor Emeritus of Forest Science at Texas A&M University, found that California's increasing wildfire crisis is causing more destruction and undoing much of the progress California is making to fight global warming.

Dr. Bonnicksen, who holds a Ph.D. in forestry from the University of California, Berkeley, and has studied California forests for more than 30 years, is the author of *America's Ancient Forests: from the Ice Age to the Age of Discovery* (John Wiley, 2000).

This report, entitled "Impacts of California Wildfires on Climate and Forests," chronicles how the wildfires that scorched California from 2001 to 2007 seriously degraded the forests in the state and contributed to global warming. The report notes that political and economic obstacles to managing and restoring forests contribute to causing the wildfire crisis.

Emissions from the last seven years of wildfires documented in this study are equivalent to adding an estimated 50 million more cars onto California's highways for one year, each spewing tons of greenhouse gases. To offset this damage, all 14 million cars in California would have to be locked in garages for 3 1/2 years to make up for the global warming impact of these wildfires.

From 2001 to 2007, fires burned more than 4 million California acres and released an estimated 277 million tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, resulting from combustion and the post-fire decay of dead trees. That is an average of 68 tons per acre.

This study and previous studies use a new computer model, the Forest Carbon and Emissions Model (FCEM), to estimate greenhouse gas emissions from wildfires and insect infestations, and opportunities to recover these emissions and prevent future losses.

"Our most important question is: Can we recover from our mistake of letting forests become unnaturally overcrowded with trees and vulnerable to catastrophic wildfires?" said Dr. Bonnicksen, "The answer is yes, if we care about restoring our forests and fighting global warming."

There are many other harmful effects of these wildfires as well, including killing wildlife, polluting the air and water, and stripping soil from hillsides. Ironically, the greenhouse gases they emit are wiping out much of what is being achieved to reduce emissions from fossil fuels to battle global warming.

"While California's actions to reduce global warming are significant, reducing the number and severity of wildfires may be the single most important action we can take in the short-term to lower greenhouse gas emissions and really fight global warming," Bonnicksen said.

Some public forests in California have more than 1,000 trees per acre when 40 to 60 trees per acre would be natural. These dense forests contain small trees that can carry fire into the canopy, and heavy concentrations of woody debris lying on the ground intensify the flames, which helps increase the size and severity of forest fires. Reducing the number of all sizes of trees per acre by thinning is effective in helping prevent crown fires in forests.

Yet that is only part of the wildfire tragedy.

During the seven years covered by this study, California wildfires deforested about 882,759 acres of public and private land. Only an estimated 120,755 acres were replanted. That means about 762,004 acres of forest was converted permanently to brush because no live trees remain standing to provide seed for a new forest. That is an average loss of 109,000 acres of forests each year, or the equivalent of nearly four times the area of San Francisco.

California's forests are dwindling due to permanent deforestation from wildfire. In addition, the estimated 134 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) released by fires and the decay of dead trees from forests that were permanently converted to brush from 2001 to 2007 will continue to worsen global warming.

Harvesting dead trees to prevent them from releasing CO₂ from decay, storing the carbon they contain in long-lasting wood products, and using the money from the sale of the wood to replant a young forest that absorbs CO₂ through photosynthesis, is the only way to restore deforested areas and recover this greenhouse gas from the atmosphere, Dr. Bonnicksen said. He added that this is done routinely on private industrial forestland but rarely on public forestland. Therefore, he said, it is critical to expedite and increase the harvesting of fire-killed trees and replanting of young trees on public forests destroyed by wildfire.

The immensity of greenhouse gas emissions from California's wildfires and the permanent loss of huge areas of forest are a warning.

The report emphasizes that every effort must be made to reduce the amount of fuel in public and private forests to prevent catastrophic wildfires. That means managing forests to make them healthy, productive, and resistant to crown fires.

Major constraints to managing and thinning private forests are government regulations and the high cost of Timber Harvest Plans (THPs). Solving this problem by streamlining regulations and reducing THP costs on private forests, and expediting environmental reviews for thinning and timber harvesting on public forests, could dramatically reduce wildfires and greenhouse gas emissions.

Data used in this report come from a variety of government and other sources. They include the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region Ecosystem Planning Staff, U.S. Forest Service Region 5 Silviculturalist, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC).

For a copy of the full report please visit the Western Institute for Study of the Environment at <http://www.westinstenv.org/ffsci>



Fox and Plyler named Southern Research Station Assistant Directors



Southern Research Station (SRS) Director Jim Reaves today announced the appointments of Susan Fox as Assistant Director of Research, and of Jennifer Plyler as Assistant Director of Science Delivery.

“Susan and Jennifer both bring extraordinary expertise to their new positions,” said Reaves. “Susan’s work in research, planning and applications over the past seven years has given her unique insight into SRS research, while Jennifer’s experience in research communication in the Forest Service’s Washington office will be invaluable in charting the future course of SRS science delivery efforts.”

As assistant director of research, Fox will manage the station’s Forest Values, Uses and Policies science area, which includes the Integrating Human and Natural Systems, Forest Operations, Utilization of Southern Forest Resources and Forest Economics and Policy units.

Fox has been with SRS for more than two decades. She began her career with the Acid Rain program and later served as the program manager for the Southern Global Change program in Raleigh, N.C. In 2002, Fox was promoted to assistant director for planning and applications in the Asheville, N.C. office, where she was responsible for the budget, planning and data quality assurance essential to the success of SRS research programs. She developed scoping studies on a wide range of issues, and served as primary liaison with university, state, federal, non-governmental organizations and industry partners.

As assistant director of science delivery, Plyler will manage the station’s Science Delivery Group (SDG), which delivers research-based information through a range of services that include publishing scientific reports, issuing media releases, producing the research magazine *Compass*, and producing podcasts and videos. SDG distributes products to landowners, various organizations and partners by mail and through extensive Web services that include a publicly accessible database of full-text scientific articles.

Plyler comes to the position with more than 17 years of experience in natural resource planning and policy analysis, social science research and communication. Most recently, Plyler served as chief of staff for Forest Service Research and Development in Washington, DC. She acted as facilitator and process consultant for research executives, developed and implemented strategic research objectives and provided strategic network leadership to research communication directors.

SRS headquarters is located in Asheville, N.C. and has additional research work units and experimental forests located across the 13 southern states. SRS scientists and researchers conduct cutting-edge research on topic areas that range from global climate change, to economics, to forest and wildlife ecology, to wood-based bioenergy. The mission of SRS is to create the science and technology needed to sustain and enhance southern forest ecosystems and the benefits they provide.

For additional information on SRS visit <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov>.

Partnership for Southern Forestland Conservation Formed; Leaders Named

More people and changing land uses are threatening the future of the South’s forests, and a group of conservation partners have united to “Keep Forests as Forests.” The Partnership for Southern Forestland Conservation was created last year after several forest conservation and management organizations met to discuss this growing concern about the future sustainability of the large tracts of forestland in the South.

“The purpose of this Partnership is to develop innovative approaches to ensure the permanent conservation of forest cover in large forested blocks in the Southeast to achieve a variety of societal, economic and environmental benefits,” said Paul Trianosky of The Nature Conservancy.

The Partnership operates as a broad coalition of collaborators bringing together the strengths of each to focus energy and efforts to increase the retention of working forest landscapes across the southeastern United States. The goal of the Partnership is to coordinate actions to result in the protection of up to 20 million additional acres by 2020.

Organizations currently represented in this Partnership include The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, U.S. Forest Service, Southern Group of State Foresters and the Department of Defense.

This type of conservation work is critical and urgent, according to Ken Arney, Deputy Regional Forester, State and Private Forestry, for the Southern Region of the U.S. Forest Service. “Our studies suggest that as much as 44 million acres of forestland will be converted to other uses by 2030, and that most of this will occur in the Southeast,” he said.

“Large intact forests provide numerous environmental benefits for plants, animals and humans,” said Mike Clutter, dean and Hargreaves professor of forest finance at the University of Georgia’s Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. “Quality of life for many will diminish if this trend is not reversed. Many of the large, contiguous forestland ownerships have changed hands in recent years, increasing, in many cases, the probability of their eventual fragmentation and resale into smaller parcels. These smaller parcels create unique and challenging conservation situations in many cases.”

The Partnership is proud to announce the recent addition of two senior and well-respected conservation leaders who will lead and nurture this effort.

Gary T. Myers, one of the longest serving leaders of a state conservation agency, has recently announced his retirement as the executive director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and will join the Partnership as Co-Director. Myers has been associated with the TWRA since 1974 when he came to Tennessee following 11 years with the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

He was named TWRA Executive Director in 1978 and just recently celebrated his 30th anniversary in this position. Widely recognized by his peers and conservation organizations throughout the country, Myers has received numerous honors during his acclaimed career.

Brian Dangler, The Conservation Fund’s Eastern Director of Acquisitions and Finance, joins the Partnership as co-director with Myers. Dangler has 20 years of experience managing forest lands with Boise Cascade and then International Paper (IP) in the northeast as well as leading major land sales and development projects for IP throughout the country.

The news: urban deer hunting

Originally published by Skinny Moose Media

As the urbanization continues across North Carolina, more natural habitat being taken up with homes and expensive landscaping, the whitetail deer is learning to adapt. I work in Raleigh and see a lot of deer within the city while traveling. There are many other wild animals that are also adapting to city life, including the coyote and the fox.

The Daily Freeman News – Hudson Valley, NY

“ULSTER PARK — A 68-year-old man died after apparently striking a deer while riding his bicycle Thursday morning, according to the Ulster County Sheriff’s Office.

Deputies said Warren “Bud” Clarke of Ulster Park was riding on Pokonoie Road about 7:20 a.m. when the accident occurred. It appears Clarke struck a deer and was thrown from the bike, deputies said.”

The deer presents a difficult problem because encounters with humans especially in the form of accidents, can cause significant property damage as well as injuries and death. This happens most often in motor vehicles but recently a man in New York State died after a collision with a deer while bike riding.

The NCWRC developed rules to allow cities to offer an urban deer archery season in January to help control the urban deer herd. There has been some reluctance on cities part to institute this but a few have across the state have and there has been no incidents or accidents reported. Bow hunting is very safe and a cheap alternative for cities during this time of dwindling budgets.

News & Observer – Raleigh, NC

“Bell says urban deer hunting doesn’t present any safety hazard. City officials specify what areas can and cannot be hunted safely. Populated, busy areas are off limits. And for suburban homeowners concerned about hunting in their backyards, hunters would need written consent from individual property owners to hunt on their land and must pass a certification program offered by the Bowhunters Association to be eligible.”

The NCBA was a driving force behind getting the Urban Season established and here is what Ramon Bell the president of the NCBA had to say.

News & Observer – Raleigh, NC

“City officials have raised legitimate concerns about urban deer hunting, said Greg Batts, a biologist with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Those include the cost of managing the program and, more importantly, safety questions. City governments have been reluctant to embrace a program that its residents could perceive as dangerous or reckless, Batts told a group of people with deer problems in Holly Springs last week.

But Batts said other methods of population control, such as poisoning, transferring deer to other areas and deer birth control are not as cost-effective or successful as hunting can be.”

Cities and towns will have to address the issue of controlling wildlife within their limits and the costs associated with that. Urban Bow Season is a safe solution and can help keep things in balance.



Upcoming events

October 6 - 7 NC Tree Farm Program Annual Meeting, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

October 7 - 9 North Carolina Forestry Association Annual Meeting, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

October 7 - 9 National Tree Farm Convention, Washington DC

October 29 (Thursday): Lower Coastal Plain Tree Farm Workshop, Pitt County, at Pitt County Ag Center, Greenville. John Angst, Weyerhaeuser Company, Croatan Chapter, NCSAF; Mitch Smith, Pitt County Extension Director; Team Leaders.

December 8 (Tuesday): Upper Coastal Plain Tree Farm Workshop, Northampton County Cultural Center, N.C. 305 West, Jackson. Rose Massey, Northampton County Extension Director; Rodney Black, Northampton County Ranger; Judy Haney, Kapstone Papers, Team Leaders.

Registration is required! Please make checks payable to: Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association (CFI) The Piedmont series will be held in the spring, the mountains series in the summer, and the coastal series in the fall.

For more information and registration materials, visit www.cradleofforestry.org or contact Amy Garascia, Program Coordinator, at amysworkshopinfo@aol.com or 828-884-5713 ex. 26.

NC Coastal 2009 Woodland Steward Series

October 9 - 10 Native Landscaping & Water Management Location: Pitt Co. Agricultural Center, Greenville

October 23-24 Woodscaping Your Woodlands & Firewise Mgmt., Cool Springs EE Center, Askins

November 6-7 Stewardship, Recreation, & Liability, Lenoir Co. Cooperative Ext. Center, Kinston



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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor • Dee Freeman, Secretary • Wib Owen, Director, Forest Resources



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