

## Growing North Carolina's Urban Forests, One Acorn at a Time

RALEIGH — To address growth impacts on urban forests the N.C. Division of Forest Resources is co-hosting a conference in September focused on planning and maintaining sustainable green urban environments.

The "Acorns to Mighty Oaks: Growing a Healthy Urban Forest" conference is scheduled for Sept. 14-16, 2010, in Raleigh. The N.C. Division of Forest Resources, the N.C. Urban Forestry Council, N.C. State University and a variety of public interest groups will be participating.

Speakers for the conference include Karen Neill, N.C. Urban Forest Council chairwoman, who will give the opening address for the conference and workshop, and keynote speakers Richard Roti, of the Charlotte Public Tree Fund, and Dr. Kim Coder, of the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources.

More than 200 people are expected to attend and learn about environmental policy and educational issues, as well as the technical tools and resources needed to assure urban forest



## ACORNS TO MIGHTY OAKS

GROWING A  
HEALTHY URBAN FOREST

quality and health throughout North Carolina municipalities. Attendees will include people from local tree boards, elected officials, planning commissions, appearance

commissions, tree care companies, the development community, city staff, landscape architects, the general public and other state agencies. They will have the opportunity to meet representatives from arborist services, nonprofit organizations focused on urban and community forestry, urban forestry educators and researchers.

The full agenda and registration information can be found at [www.ncsu.edu/feop/urbanforest/](http://www.ncsu.edu/feop/urbanforest/); or for more information, call the Forestry and Environmental Outreach Program at N.C. State University at (919) 515-9563. The discounted early registration fee deadline is September 10.

The conference will take place at the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel. For more information, call Leslie Moorman, Urban Forestry Program coordinator with the N.C. Division of Forest Resources, at (919) 857-4842.

## Forest Landbird Legacy and the William Jenkins Tract

Imagine taking a large mature forest and fine tuning it to benefit forest dwelling songbirds. It's a challenge alright, but exactly the challenge for which the Forest Landbird Legacy Program was designed. And speaking of challenges, no one likes to take them on better than Rufus Brown, son-in-law of William Jenkins and caretaker of the Jenkins family property. Put these two together and you have a success story on 117 acres of mixed hardwood and pine forest in the southeast corner of Granville County.

After walking over the property and discussing land management practices with wildlife biologists and foresters, the family's consulting forester developed a Forest Stewardship Plan. With the collaborative plan in place, Rufus Brown requested funds from the Forest Landbird Legacy Program to help accomplish some of the plan's goals.

Then the fun stuff... Over the next two years Brown worked diligently to establish firebreaks along property boundaries and

around each burn block and followed up by conducting a prescribed burn. He'll continue to conduct prescribed burns on a regular basis.



*Partners on this project met with Rufus Brown to tour the property and present the Jenkins family with a recognition sign and plaque.*

## Forest Landbird Legacy and the William Jenkins Tract - continued

Prescribed fires enhance the wildlife habitat along the forest floor, particularly in pine stands. Fire improves the growth and composition of the understory vegetation and benefits many species of forest dwelling birds including brown-headed nuthatches and black and white warblers that search for insects nestled in the tree bark.

He also created half acre forest canopy gaps every 3 to 4 acres by simply harvesting the trees in a few small areas and allowing sunlight to reach the forest floor. Soon vegetation filled in the gaps, adding to the diversity of the forest and making feeding places for such birds as scarlet tanagers and hooded warblers.



Simultaneously he had the density of the pine forest reduced to a basal area between 50 and 70 square feet. A reduction in basal area relieves the crowded conditions in the forest. The released trees usually grow larger crowns which produce more mast and provide greater habitat potential for canopy dwelling birds.

One bold strategy of Brown's forest and songbird management plan was the creation of snags. Snags are standing dead trees that woodpeckers, owls, and other cavity nesting birds use. Insects burrow into the trees, simultaneously helping with the breakdown of tree fibers and serving as a source of prey for woodpeckers, nuthatches and other animals. Many other critters, such as raccoons and possums, use snags to find shelter and food. To create snags, Brown girdled four trees within each five acre block.

Snags and den trees are a vital component of all forests, providing a significant microhabitat within the forest. To some wildlife species, a snag is more usable than a living tree.

In addition to benefitting so many high priority bird species, the family's opportunities for outdoor recreation, including turkey and deer hunting improved with the management actions they chose to take.

Another strong desire of this family was to protect it from development. Today, the entire Jenkins tract is protected with a working forest conservation easement held by the Tar River Land Conservancy. The family will continue to conduct prescribed burns, harvest timber, hunt, and hike there, and take comfort knowing the land will remain intact in a natural condition... forever.



*The scarlet tanager is one type of songbird that needs relatively open space within the forest to forage on insects. Using its tweezer-like beak, the scarlet tanager flies through the open air to grab flying insects. It also will hover over the ground in search of insects and earthworms.*



*Snags and den trees are a vital component of all forests, providing a significant microhabitat within the forest. To some wildlife species, a snag is more usable than a living tree.*



The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in North Carolina collaborated with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to establish the Forest Landbird Legacy Program in 2003. This voluntary program that promotes the conservation of forest dependent migratory birds on nonindustrial private forest lands is available to interested landowners. See [http://www.fws.gov/raleigh/pdfs/partners/FLLPFact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/raleigh/pdfs/partners/FLLPFact_Sheet.pdf) for more information.

## “Forests Are Essential to a Healthy Outdoor Strategy”

Washington, D.C. - The American Forest Foundation issued the following statement on the White House Conference on America’s Great Outdoors:

“We applaud the Obama Administration’s leadership in acknowledging the vital role America’s forests and working landscapes play in the economic and environmental health of communities all across the country. In particular, we commend U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Vilsack for his continued leadership to knit together farms, forests and ranches with landscape scale conservation efforts,” said Tom Martin, American Forest Foundation President and CEO.

In America, the “great outdoors” includes 262 million acres of woodlands owned by family forest owners. These families own more than one-third of the nation’s forests and woodlands -- an essential component to conserving America’s great outdoors. By contrast federal forest lands comprise only 25 percent of our forests.

“Helping family forest owners stay on the land and manage forests sustainably is essential to a healthy outdoor strategy, economically viable communities, and a strong conservation ethic,” Martin said.

America’s family-owned forests filter more than half of the nation’s drinking water supply and provide habitat for most of our nation’s endangered species. America’s forests also support more than one million family wage jobs and generate billions in economic returns for our nation’s communities. Our forests sequester more than 12 percent of annual U.S. carbon emissions and already supply most of the nation’s energy that comes from renewable sources.

“We also commend the administration for addressing the need to reconnect Americans with the natural world,” said Martin. “At a time

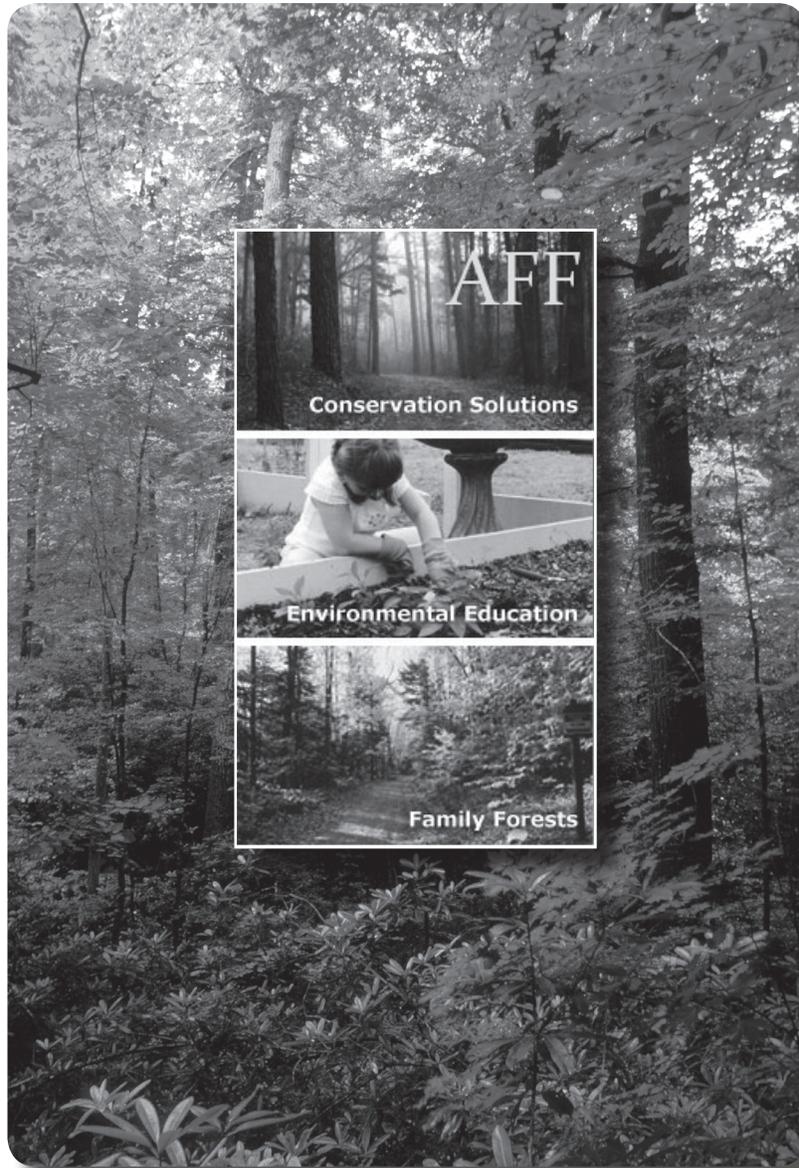
when too many children suffer from “nature deficit” and increasing rates of obesity, forests provide recreational opportunities to get kids outdoors and learning about our environment. Through Project Learning Tree®, our premier environmental education program, AFF is taking a leading role

in getting kids away from “virtual reality” to the true virtues of nature. We will continue to seek additional federal resources to ensure that environmental education is part of every child’s education.”

Despite the multitude of benefits America’s family-owned forests provide, they are under constant threat from development, insects and disease exacerbated by climate change, and burdensome tax policies that often force families to sell their land. The American Forest Foundation will continue to work with the Obama administration to develop innovative solutions and policy changes to keep America’s forests healthy and productive.

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) is a nonprofit conservation organization that works to stem the loss of America’s woodlands by helping family

forest landowners manage their land for clean water, wildlife habitat, recreation, and wood products. AFF works to ensure decision makers and educators understand the value of America’s woodlands through environmental education and outreach efforts that bring outdoor learning to children and adults across the country. We enhance the quality of America’s woodlands through our 50-state network of partners and volunteers who lead initiatives on 24.3 million acres of family woodlands and engage youth and communities in conservation efforts.



## Kelly Douglass: Biologist for the Piedmont

Kelly Douglass joined the forest Stewardship team as the Piedmont Forest Stewardship Biologist this spring after Danny Ray's promotion within the Wildlife Resources Commission. Here are a few things about her.

### **FSP News: Kelly, what is your stewardship history?**

**KD:** I have no doubt that my wildlife and stewardship interests derived from my youth and the values my family taught me. Both my father and grandfather studied forestry in school and have always had a strong interest in forest management and wildlife conservation. As far back as I can remember they encouraged my brother and me to spend time outdoors and enjoy the natural world around us. They would quiz us on tree identification and teach us about wildlife and plant communities. But most importantly, they taught us how to appreciate and conserve our environment so it would be around for future generations.

### **FSP News: How about your work experience?**

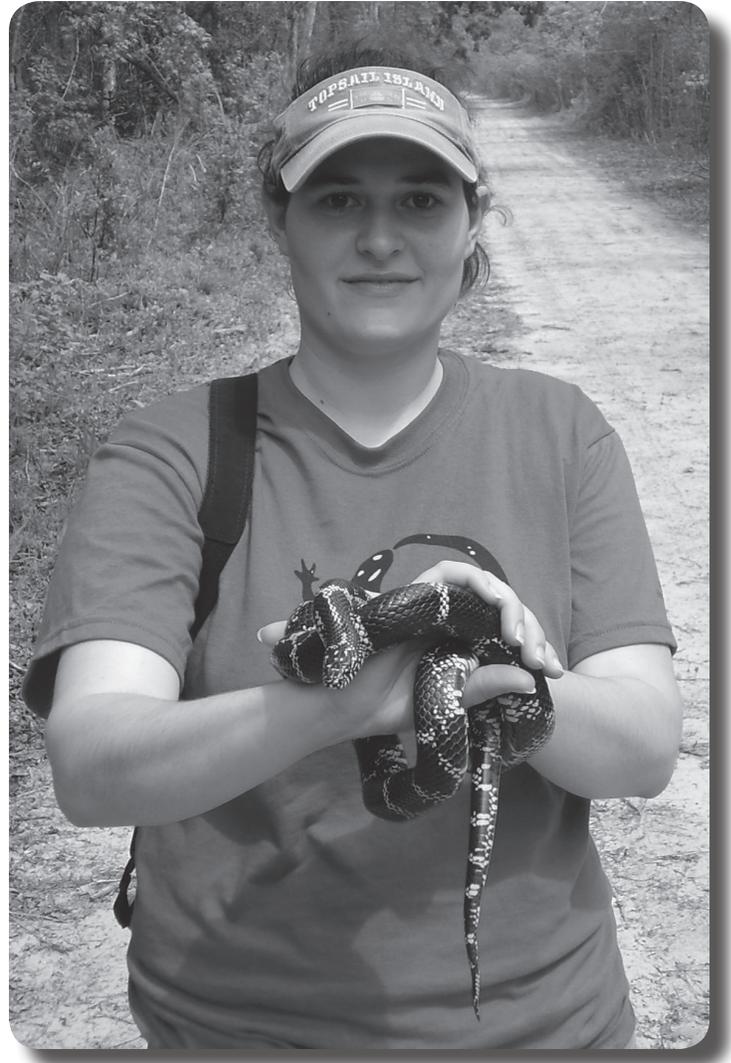
**KD:** During the summers and weekends of my undergraduate career, I interned at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences as an environmental educator teaching kids about wildlife, plant ecosystems, and a variety of other environmental topics. During the school week, I also worked at the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission as a wildlife management intern, responsible for issuing permits to universities, museums, and other individuals interested in collecting or holding wildlife in captivity for educational or research purposes. That internship was housed in our Nongame Program, at the time. This also gave me an opportunity to assist our field biologists with some of the agency's nongame and endangered species research, such as colonial waterbird surveys, bat mist-netting, and sea turtle nest patrols. In 2004, I became responsible for the agency's Captive Cervid Program and functioned as the primary contact for North Carolina on chronic wasting disease surveillance in captive cervids (deer, elk, and caribou). While in that position, I also provided technical guidance to the public on a variety of wildlife interactions, assisted our game lands management staff with various habitat management techniques (e.g. prescribed burns and crop planting/management), and participated in a suite of wildlife research activities (black bear sampling, bird mist-netting, wood duck trapping, herpetofaunal surveys, and small mammal trapping to name a few). In July, I replaced Danny Ray as Forest Stewardship Biologist for the piedmont.

### **FSP News: Was that move tough on you or your family?**

**KD:** I grew up in North Raleigh on a 200-acre piece of property, before it was all developed, and have since remained in Raleigh through my educational and professional careers.

### **FSP News: Where did you go to school?**

**KD:** I received a Bachelor's degree from N.C. State University in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences in 2002, and I am currently working on my Master's degree from N.C. State in Wildlife Sciences. My graduate research is focused on the effects of management treatments on lead shot concentrations in publicly-owned mourning dove fields in eastern North Carolina.



### **FSP News: Anything else the folks might want to know about you?**

**KD:** My wildlife conservation interests continue to grow while working at the Commission and I'm always excited to learn new things. I enjoy meeting new people and visiting new places. In my spare time, I enjoy hunting and fishing and spending time with my friends and family.

### **FSP News: Thanks Kelly. How can folks contact you?**

**KD:** I can be contacted with questions or comments at:

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PO Box 31063  
Raleigh, NC 27622  
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Cell: 919-621-3317  
[kelly.douglass@ncwildlife.org](mailto:kelly.douglass@ncwildlife.org)

# Extension Forestry Website Brings Resources to Citizens of North Carolina and Beyond



Contact: Renee Strnad - [renee\\_strnad@ncsu.edu](mailto:renee_strnad@ncsu.edu)

Extension Forestry at N.C. State University is proud to announce the launch of their new website! The Extension Forestry website is designed to benefit the general public, landowners, community leaders, industry professionals and others throughout North Carolina by providing useful information on a variety of forestry-related topics, identifying additional resources, and providing a forum for sharing current news and information related to forestry and natural resources in North Carolina and beyond.

Visit the new Extension Forestry website at [www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/).

Be sure to save this site in your favorites and visit often as new information and resources are added frequently.

## About Extension Forestry

The Extension Forestry Program at N.C. State University enables North Carolinians to make informed decisions concerning the management, enhancement and enjoyment of their forest resources through sound, research-based information and education. North Carolina is a state rich in forest resources with almost 60 percent, or 18.3 million acres, of the state covered in forests. The wise use of this resource is important for water and air quality, wildlife habitat, beautiful views, timber resources and economic prosperity.

## Unsettled issue of climate change

BOB SLOCUM • MARCH 31, 2010

The recent snowstorms in Washington, DC, and cold weather across the county have fed growing public doubt about global warming. This has prompted the believers to declare that one snowstorm – or even several – doesn't disprove global warming. That's true. But these same voices were claiming that the recent drought and hot summers were proof of a pending planetary disaster. I am sorry, but you can't have it both ways. Apparently in their world, "global warming" is the unified theory that can explain everything – too much heat and too little heat; too many hurricanes and too few hurricanes; too much rain or snow and too little rain or snow – all the result of global warming.

Public skepticism of human caused global warming was recently bolstered

when a leading British climate researcher and global warming proponent – Dr. Phil Jones – admitted that "there has been no statistically significant warming in the last 15 years." Yet carbon dioxide levels have continued to increase. So it's just possible, even likely, that carbon dioxide levels aren't driving our climate. What should now be clear to all is that the science is far from settled on this issue.

But hasn't the climate warmed? Yes, it has. Not a lot, but some. No one really disputes this fact. This is the one, and almost only, element of consensus. While there is evidence of warming, there is little proof that carbon dioxide had anything to do with it or that more carbon dioxide will force temperatures up further.

continued on page 6



## Unsettled issue of climate change - continued

We should not confuse “global warming” with “greenhouse gases.” Proof of global warming is not proof that greenhouse gases had anything to do with it. A large part of the problem is a focus on the effects of warming and not the causes. Saying that the climate has warmed and that carbon dioxide levels have increased, therefore carbon dioxide increases are driving the warming is wrong! Guilt by association is not proof. It’s simple but wrong. It was scientific consensus that the earth was flat and the sun revolved around the Earth. It was also a scientific consensus in the early 1970’s that we were on the verge of a new Ice Age. History tells us real science isn’t about consensus — it’s about proof.

Is carbon dioxide, as EPA has declared, really a pollutant and a danger to human health? No. We breath it, we exhale it, and plants need it. In fact, one could argue it’s essential to life on earth. All green plants need it as part of photosynthesis which in turn produces oxygen. For every pound of wood produced by a tree, it takes in about 1.5 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> and produces about 1 pound of oxygen. Thanks to a little more CO<sub>2</sub> in the air, our plants, crops and

forests have shown significant increases in growth and productivity.

I don’t profess to have all the answers but I’m confident that the cries of impending planetary doom are overblown. While carbon dioxide contributes to the “greenhouse effect,” there is little convincing proof that it has or will force temperatures higher.

If energy security is the issue, then make full use of our technology and our own natural resources rather than putting them off limits. Green energy has a promising future, but until there are major leaps in technology, it’s expensive and unable to replace existing sources. We need to support and invest in research to achieve these breakthroughs in technology. What we don’t need to do is commit economic suicide based on an unproven computer theory. Let’s focus on doing the right things for the right reasons.

Bob Slocum is a member of the North Carolina Legislative Study Commission on Climate. A registered forester, Slocum has directed the North Carolina Forestry Association since 1988 and currently serves on several state and national committees that address forest health and forestry issues.

## N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission



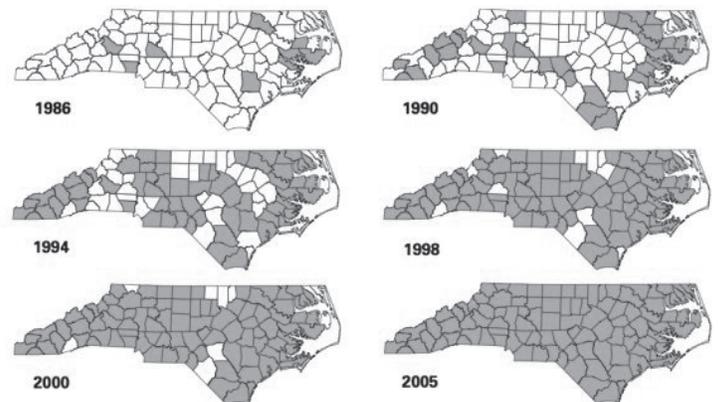
For the past several months, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, or WRC, has been working cooperatively with the North Carolina General Assembly’s House Select Committee on Coyote Nuisance Removal.

The committee was charged with studying options for a coyote nuisance removal program aimed

at diminishing threats presented by the existence of a coyote population in the state. Commission staff presented information to inform the committee of species history, distribution, and status. In addition, the WRC submitted comments and recommendations to the committee on April 16. The comments were focused on important outreach and education needs and opportunities to utilize hunting and trapping as management tools.

One of the ideas considered for recommendation was to amend North Carolina General Statutes so foxes would be added to the species that could be taken with traps under the WRC established seasons. If this recommendation was adopted, trapping foxes would be opened in 61 counties that do not currently have a season. This is important to coyote management because WRC data indicates that take of coyotes by trappers increases in overlapping coyote and fox trapping seasons. Although coyotes may be trapped during the WRC’s established seasons, foxes caught incidentally must be released in those counties without an established fox trapping season, thereby reducing the desirability of trapping in those areas. The WRC believes that trapping has significant potential to improve the success rate for dealing with depredating coyotes. Further, state laws regarding fox hunting across can be confusing,

### North Carolina Coyote Distribution



and may present a barrier to increased take of coyote by trappers.

The existing statutory framework regulating fox hunting and trapping reflects a carefully negotiated set of regulations representing a wide range of perspectives and interests. However, this framework was negotiated without consideration and prioritization of present day coyote management objectives. Expanding coyote populations represent threats to multiple interest groups.

We believe that science-based decision-making and public input are cornerstones of sustainable wildlife management policy and, although the WRC unconditionally agrees that management of all of North Carolina’s wildlife resources should be entrusted to the WRC, we also believe that transference of fox management should occur through a process that includes full stakeholder engagement. At this point, we have not fully engaged all affected stakeholders. Recognition of these factors is reflected in the WRC final recommendations to the House Select Committee on Coyote Nuisance Removal. We look forward to convening a meeting in the future to discuss potential changes.

## North Carolina high school students win scholarships and awards at environmental workshop

RALEIGH — Seven North Carolina high school students were awarded college scholarships and cash prizes at the conclusion of the 47th annual Resource Conservation Workshop last week in Wake County.

Soil and water conservation district boards statewide chose 81 students to participate in the workshop based on demonstrated conservation interests. Scientists, foresters, biologists, wildlife experts and engineers provided classroom instruction and outdoor study in the environmental sciences. Students also received information and insight into careers in natural resource management.

“How many opportunities do kids get to explore so many different career fields in one week?” asked Kevin Pittman, a Resource Conservation Workshop resource professional volunteer and educational forest ranger with the N.C. Division of Forest Resources at Clemmons Educational State Forest in Clayton.

Pittman’s supervisor, Michael Huffman, agreed.

“After 34 years, I still think this workshop is the best thing a high school student can do if they want to go into natural resource management,” Huffman added.

The Resource Conservation Workshop scholarships and cash awards are given to students with the top five scores from Thursday’s written exam. In addition, all counselors nominated one student to be interviewed by a panel of judges. Students with the top two interview scores earned the Grady Lane and District Employees Association Scholarships.

The following students received scholarships and/or cash awards:

- Lucas Paynter, of Warren County, received a \$1,000 District Employees Association Scholarship.
- Madison Capps, of Transylvania County, received the \$500 Grady Lane Scholarship and a \$100 cash award.

- Frank Scott, of Wilson County, received a \$500 Resource Conservation Workshop Scholarship and a \$100 cash award.
- Andrew Norris, of Cumberland County, received a \$275 Resource Conservation Workshop Scholarship and a \$100 cash award.
- Ryan Sutton, of New Hanover County (sponsored at the workshop by Durham county), received a \$100 Resource Conservation Workshop Scholarship.
- Thomas Lineberger, of Johnston County, received a \$75 Resource Conservation Workshop Scholarship.
- James Lunsford, of Pender County, received a \$50 Resource Conservation Workshop Scholarship.

Study locations for the workshop included N.C. State University and the university’s Lake Wheeler Research Farm, Clemmons Educational State Forest and Falls Lake State Recreation Area. An award ceremony was held last week at the McKimmon Center for Extension and Continuing Education at N.C. State University in Raleigh.

Instructors and judges came from the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources; N.C. State University’s Continuing Education and Professional Development Center; soil and water conservation districts in Wake, Johnston and Durham counties; U.S. Department of Agricultural Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The workshop is sponsored and organized by the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation, the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and N.C. State University’s Soil Science Department and the McKimmon Center for Extension and Continuing Education.

## 8th Annual Short Course for Private Landowners Offered

The screenshot shows the website for the Cradle of Forestry. At the top left is the logo with the text "CRADLE of FORESTRY" and "The Birthplace of Forest Conservation". Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for "Cradle of Forestry", "Forest Place Store", "Camping", "Interpretive Association", "Volunteers & Employment", and "Forestry Foundation". To the right of the menu is a search bar with a "GO" button and links for "Site Index" and "Contact Us". Below the navigation is a large image of a forest with the text "Celebrating a Century of Forestry Education". On the right side of the page, there is a section titled "Upcoming Programs at the Cradle:" with a list of events:
 

- \* September 25 - National Public Lands Day (free admission for all)
- \* Month of October - Cradle Crafters exhibit
- \* October 2 - Forest Festival Day
- \* October 8-10 - Camping in the Old Style
- \* October 22-23 - Legend of Tommy Hodges

 Below the list is a link "Click HERE for a full calendar of events" and a bolded instruction: "\*To schedule a group visit to the Cradle, please call 828-877-3130 or click here for more information." At the bottom of the page, there is a "Quick Index" dropdown menu and the text "The Birthplace of Forest Conservation in America".

**Brevard** — Are you a landowner who wants to protect your legacy by keeping your woods healthy? Do you want financial assistance and expertise in maximizing the benefits from your woodlands? Are you seeking information on preventing the threats of insects, plants and wildfire to the health and value of your woodlot? The Woodland Steward Series is designed to equip landowners with the tools and resources needed to manage your land, presented by experts from public and private agencies.

The Mountains Woodland Steward Series began in July with 1.5-day workshops every other Friday and Saturday. Locations included the Cradle of Forestry in Pisgah Forest (July 9 - 10; Aug. 20 - 21), the N.C. Arboretum in Asheville (July 23 - 24), and Holmes Educational State Forest in Hendersonville (August 6 - 7).

**Workshop Schedule:**

Stewardship, Recreation, and Liability (August 20 & 21) at the Cradle of Forestry Historic Site in Pisgah National Forest — Planning trails on your property, plus the basics of land ownership liability and conservation easements. Explore management practices in the field and apply your new knowledge and skills. Finalize your goals and objectives. Graduation ceremony

and lunch will follow on Saturday for those who have attended at least three of the four workshops.

Advance registration is required. For more information and registration materials on this opportunity visit [www.cradleofforestry.org](http://www.cradleofforestry.org) or contact Amy Garascia, program coordinator, at [amysworkshopinfo@aol.com](mailto:amysworkshopinfo@aol.com) or (828) 884-5713 ext. 26. Registration includes lunch, snacks and workshop-related materials and handouts. The registration deadline is one week prior to the session desired.

Credit toward N.C. Environmental Education Certification is available, as well as forester CFE and educator CEU credits. Workshops also count as electives toward the Asheville Board of Realtors ECO Certification.

The course is sponsored by: the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association, N.C. Division of Forest Resources, N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, U.S. Forest Service Cradle of Forestry in America, N.C. Arboretum, N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation, N.C. Tree Farm Program, and Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy.

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[www.dfr.state.nc.us](http://www.dfr.state.nc.us)

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



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