



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Coordinator's Desk

*Feature Article:
Youth in Forestry*

Inside Articles:

Teachers Conservation Workshops

Youth Conservation Camps

Delta Hardwood Notes

Pizza Farm Teaches Elementary School Students about Sustainable Forestry

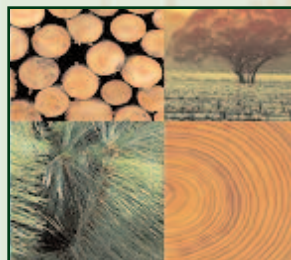
Timber Market Update

Editors

*Jason Gordon
Linda W. Garnett*

Send comments to:

Jason Gordon
Extension Specialist
(662) 325-8851
jgordon@ext.msstate.edu



From the Coordinator's Desk

MSU Extension Forestry is well known for the short courses and workshops conducted for landowners, loggers, and foresters. We also conduct programs for thousands of youth on an annual basis. Educating youth about the wonders and values of Mississippi's vast and diverse forests always has been and will continue to be paramount to our program. From Project Learning Tree, to school programs, to scouting activities, we strive, along with our partners, to keep Mississippi first in forestry for generations to come.

I hope you enjoy the articles presented in this issue of the Overstory focusing on youth in forestry.

Dr. Andrew J. Londo
Extension Forestry Program Coordinator



**Forestry Extension Conservation Camp
Tara Wildlife, Vicksburg, MS**



Feature Article

Youth in Forestry

by Stephen Dicke
Extension Specialist

Nine teams competed in the 2013 FFA (Future Farmers of America) Forestry Contest on April 5. The contest included tree identification, tree measurement, forest knowledge, forest tool identification, and orienteering. The winning FFA team was from Mantachie High School and they received the Pine Cone Trophy. Tyler Graham from Mantachie was the top individual and he received the \$1,000 Ed Farout Scholarship. As state winners Mantachie will travel in October to Louisville, KY to compete in the national FFA Forestry Contest. The Mississippi Forestry Association (MFA) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee (SFISIC) will be helping the team with travel expenses.

Meanwhile: 4-H Forestry judging teams from across the state are busy preparing for the Forestry Judging Contest which will be held at 4-H Club Congress on May 30. This senior 4-H contest covers tree identification, tree measurement, insect and disease id, and forest knowledge. Dr. James Henderson will administer this contest. Mississippi's top 4-H team will earn the Acorn Trophy. And in June they will travel to West Virginia to compete in the national 4-H Forestry Judging Contest. MFA and SFISIC will also help our winning 4-H team with their travel expenses.

The Pushmataha Council of the Boy Scouts of America (NE MS) held their Spring Camporee at MSU on April 26-28. Dr. Don Grebner coordinated the teaching of 12 merit badges by MSU School of Forestry faculty and staff volunteers. Seventeen boy scouts received Forestry merit badge training from Dr. David Evans and 18 scouts completed the Pulp and Paper merit badge taught by Dr. David Jones.

Continued on Page 2



Andy Londo
Forestry Extension Program
Coordinator
E-mail: ajlondo@cfr.msstate.edu
Office: (662) 325-8003

Visit us online at :
<http://msucare.com/forestry>
and friend/follow us on
Facebook & Twitter
<https://www.facebook.com/MississippiStateUniversityExtensionForestry>
<https://twitter.com/MSUExtForestry>

The Overstory

Feature Article (continued from page 1)

In February, Forestry Days were hosted by the Andrew Jackson Council (Central-SW MS) and Pine Burr Council (SE MS) of the Boy Scouts of America. These all-day Forestry merit badge trainings were held at the Warren Hood Scout Camp near Hazlehurst (for 109 Boy Scouts, 234 total attendance) and Camp Tiak near Wiggins (for 130 Boy Scouts, 297 total attendance). A team of nine foresters helped teach the forestry merit badge at each of these two camps and made sure each scout completed all requirements. Forrest/Lamar, Stone, Harrison, and Walthall County Forestry

Association sponsors of these Forestry Days. We are asking for your help to recognize and publicize outstanding achievements by Mississippi's youth in the area of forestry. Each year MFA offers a Youth Forestry Achievement Award (nomination form available at ms-forestry.net) and your nominee could be the winner. Nomination deadline is September 1. Any questions? Contact Stephen Dicke, Chair MFA Youth Committee at: steved@ext.msstate.edu or 601-857-2284.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now.

~Chinese Proverb



Earth Day 2013
Grad Student Emily Vanderford shows young participants some of the things we use every day that come from our forests.



Hard Hats, Education, Pizza and Fun at Pizza Farm



Warren Hood Scout Reservation Patch for SFI Forestry Day 2013

Teachers Conservation Workshops

by Glenn Hughes, Extension Specialist

The Teachers Conservation Workshop (TCW) is a practical, hands-on conservation workshop with emphasis on forests and other natural resources. The latest information on conservation is presented in the classroom and in numerous field trips including industries, harvesting operations, management practices, and nature trails. Participants learn by demonstration and practical exercises how to integrate relevant conservation practices into classroom work and student projects. Teachers are exposed to Project Learning Tree, a widely-known environmental education program that can be used in a variety of classes including sciences, arts, humanities, social sciences, and others.

TCW is a highly active workshop, and participants spend more time "in the field" than

in the classroom. Participants enjoy networking with other educators, and scheduled activities start early and end late. Participants can earn either CEU credits or academic credit through TCW

Instructors include professionals from Miss. State University, Miss. Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Miss. Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, U.S. Forest Service, forest industries, consulting foresters and other natural resource organizations and companies.

TCW-North is June 2-7 at Northeast MS Community College and TCW-South is June 16-21 at Jones County Junior College. To register, contact the MS Forestry Association at (601) 354-4936.



FFA Forestry Contest Teams

Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Motto: Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.

Forestry Extension Youth programs all strive to exemplify and implement these same kinds of ideals.

Youth Conservation Camps

by Don Bales
Extension Associate

Kids would rather be inside than outside, so each year our Title III Forestry Education program sponsors scholarships for youth aged 9-15 from specific counties to attend the MSU Youth Conservation Camps at Tara Wildlife. Summer camps feature the Hunter Education Program, hands on practice with shotguns, .22 rifles and archery gear. Other instruction includes, but is not limited to, first Aid, "Say No to Drugs," compass and orienteering, predator trapping, fish identification and alligator conservation and management.

The Spring Break Camp attendees spend time outside with hands on shooting sports instruction, hunting for shed antlers, GPS instruction and scavenger hunt, tree identification, and basic forestry instruction. The kids really appreciate the opportunity to take a walk on the wild side and experience the outdoors as never before. During one spring break camp, we had the opportunity to take kids on a crawfish hand grabbing trip. The girls took on the boys in a get down and dirty crawfish hand-grabbing competition by wading a recently dried up ditch. With seventy five pounds caught in 30 minutes, the boys and girls tied when we weighed the baskets.

This exercise proved that kids still love the outdoors and we should be providing opportunities for them. These kids received a good treatment for their Nature Deficit Disorder!

For more information on these camps, contact Tara Wildlife at www.tarawildlife.net.

Delta Hardwood Notes

by Brady Self
Extension Forestry Specialist

Often parents, natural resources professionals and enthusiasts, and youth coordinators find themselves at a loss while trying to encourage younger generations to take up outdoor pastimes. The allure of electronic technology, team sports, and shortage of time available to parents has decreased overall involvement of today's youth in more traditional outdoor activities. In our faster paced world, hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping seem to be losing ground when vying for adolescents' interest and time. The good news is that there are still many opportunities to involve youth in the outdoors.

The Mississippi Delta has one of the richest pools of opportunity for youth involvement in the South. The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks owns and/or manages 13 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the Delta. Obviously hunting comes to mind when considering WMAs, but there are also opportunities for fishing, camping, and hiking. There are also large land holdings across the Delta owned and managed by federal entities that offer a multitude of opportunities ranging from hunting and fishing to bird watching and cycling. All of these areas offer interested parties excellent opportunities to involve younger people in outdoor activities and education.

The Mississippi 4-H Forestry Competition is an excellent place to start including children in outdoor involvement. A detailed description of this competition can be found in "4-H Forestry Competition Handbook" on the MSUCares website (Publication 1991). For information, contact your local county extension office.

Pizza Farm Teaches Elementary School Students about Sustainable Forestry

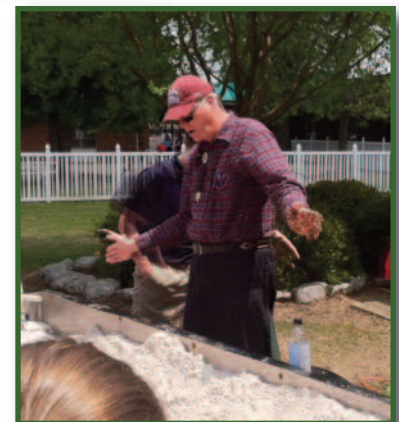
by Jason Gordon, Extension Specialist

Each spring, the Northeast Mississippi Extension Region hosts Pizza Farm in Verona. This informative and interactive program focuses on teaching elementary school students the ubiquitousness of agriculture in their everyday lives. During the event, students visit several stations positioned around the arena to learn about how farms contribute to making the pizza they eat. Unsurprisingly, the forestry stop focuses on the making of the box – because without a box, the pizza that mom just picked up from the store would fall on the ground. After a brief introduction, four students volunteer to help extension personnel demonstrate the process of making paper for use in the pizza box. Because no trees are present in the arena, and to make the activity fun and imaginative, a banana is used to represent the tree. First, the logger (wearing all the critical safety equipment, of course) cuts the tree – TIMBER! Then, the peeler takes the bark off the tree. The bark is used as mulch around mom's flower beds. Third, the chipper cuts the wood into small pieces. Finally, the pulper uses his or her hands to mash the pieces of banana into a mush, or the pulp that is used to make paper. The forestry stop highlights the sustainability of tree production in Mississippi in order to continue to provide the products that the kids enjoy: clean air and water, homes, paper, and many other products and services. Like the cheese, pepperoni, and olives, the box isn't magically produced at the store. It takes tree farmers, loggers, mill workers, and many other people to ensure the students' pizza is hot when mom brings it home from the store.



At "Pizza Farm" Dr. Kushla and students harvesting a banana (a.k.a. loblolly pine tree) to demonstrate the paper-making process.

Forestry Extension Participation in Earth Day Youth Activities Dr. John Kushla uses a model to explain stream flow



Timber Market Outlook

by James E. Henderson, Forest Economics Specialist

Housing starts are on the rise! The seasonally adjusted annual rate for U.S. housing starts for March crossed the million mark at 1.036 million. Demand is exceeding supply for both housing and building materials. The Random Lengths composite price for framing lumber for May is up 13.6% from the same period last year. As of March 2013 there was a 4.4 month supply of newly constructed homes. This measure indicates the number months needed to sell all available units at the current home sales volume. The supply from the same period in 2012 and 2011 was 4.9 and 7.1, respectively. However, stumpage prices for pine sawtimber are not rebounding as quickly. Mississippi stumpage prices for the 1st quarter of 2013 as reported by Forest2Market did show gains for most product categories; however, pine sawtimber was the lone exception falling by \$1.75 to \$26.07. The full price report is available at Msucares.com/forestry/prices or you can contact your local county MSU Extension Service office.

One issue that will keep stumpage prices from rising more quickly will be the accumulated inventory of standing timber. Since the decline in the U.S. housing market the rate of timber harvesting has been much lower resulting in accumulation of standing timber. One estimate by the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory indicated that standing pine sawtimber volume was up by over 40% since the last state wide inventory was conducted starting in 2005. Housing is projected to be back at a production level of about 1.5 million units a year by 2015 or 2016.

At that point stumpage prices for pine should reflect the resulting increase in demand and reduction of standing timber inventories as timber harvesting increases. It is reasonable to expect modest increases in stumpage prices over this period of time. 2013 is looking better than 2012, and much better than the last several years following the recession. The recovery for Mississippi's timber markets will take time but everything is finally heading in the right direction. As timber sales increase so will questions on paying taxes.

The IRS just issued a new audit technique guide for the timber industry. This is the document that IRS agents will consult before conducting an audit of a timber sale. This can be found on the IRS website by searching for Hardwood Timber Industry Audit Technique Guide. There are also two newly revised USDA publications available. Forest Landowners' Guide to the Federal Income Tax and Federal Income Tax on Timber: A Quick Guide for Woodland Owners. Both are available at timbertax.org.



Primary Business Address

Mississippi State University
Forestry Extension
P. O. Box 9681
775 Stone Blvd
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Area Specialists:

NE District: Dr. John Kushla
662-566-2201, or kushla@ext.msstate.edu

NW District: Dr. Brady Self
662-226-6000, or bradys@ext.msstate.edu

SW District: Dr. Stephen Dicke
601-857-2284, or steved@ext.msstate.edu

James Floyd, 601-857-2284, or
jfloyd@ext.msstate.edu

SE District: Dr. Glenn Hughes
601-794-0671, or ghughes@ext.msstate.edu

Don Bales, 601-794-671, or
dbales@ext.msstate.edu,

Butch Bailey, 601-794-0671, or
butchb@ext.msstate.edu,

State Specialists:

Pine Silviculture: Dr. Andy Londo
662-325-8003, or ajlondo@cfr.msstate.edu

Hardwood Silviculture: Dr. Randy Rousseau
662-325-2777, or rrousseau@cfr.msstate.edu

Economics & Taxes: Dr. James Henderson
662-325-0754, or jhenderson@cfr.msstate.edu

Community Forestry: Dr. Jason Gordon
662-325-8851, or jgordon@ext.msstate.edu

Logger's Education: Mr. John Auel
662-325-7948, or jauel@cfr.msstate.edu

Media: Linda Garnett
662-325-8355 or, lgarnett@cfr.msstate.edu

Contact: Jan McReynolds
janm@ext.msstate.edu

662-325-3905
Fax:662-325-0027

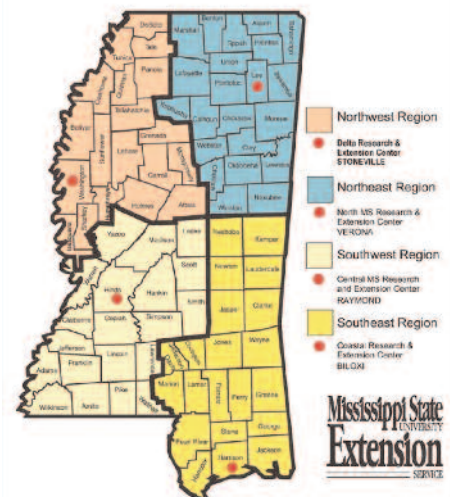
VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

<http://msucares.com/forestry>



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION SERVICE

MSU-ES Region Map



Discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran's status is a violation of federal and state law and MSU policy and will not be tolerated. Discrimination based upon sexual orientation or group affiliation is a violation of MSU policy and will not be tolerated..