

Tree Country

March 2022



the employee
newsletter of the
**South Carolina
Forestry Commission**

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from the desk of
FLEET & EQUIPMENT MANAGER
Doug Mills



Hello everyone! Spring is almost here, and Forestry Commission equipment is hard at work all over the state doing firebreak plowing for landowners, conducting controlled burns and suppressing wildfires. It's hard to believe, but I have been the fleet and equipment manager for the agency for nearly 16 years! In that span of time, I have seen many changes come about in our fleet.

The biggest change of all was the move to environmental cab dozers in 2012. Since that year, we have put 114 Caterpillar environmental cab dozers in service (approximately 71% of our frontline units). There have been many challenges along the way that we never saw with older open cab units: glass breakage, engine computer control issues, glare on windows at night, diesel exhaust fluid... the list goes on and on. But we have adapted to these challenges, and most of our operators have realized that these dozers are invaluable when it comes to operator safety in our working environment. Our plan is to have all frontline enclosed cab dozers by December 2025.

Not only have we seen a lot of change

in our dozer fleet, but the new transport trucks have evolved as well. The most noticeable change is the addition of a third rear axle. This was because the dozers we are hauling are quite a bit heavier than the older open-cab units. This has pushed us over the allowable 36,000 lbs. on the rear tandem axles. A third "pusher" axle was added to accommodate this extra weight.

The transports also have increased horsepower to handle the load, Bluetooth radios for hands-free device use and air-ride suspensions for a safe and smooth ride. Exhaust after-treatment systems on all new equipment requires these units to be exercised and operated often and for longer periods of time to ensure prolonged life of



Our firefighting vehicles are rolling billboards for the Commission and should be clean and show that our agency takes pride in our work.

New environmental cab firefighting units ready for pick up in 2020.

the equipment. Gone are the days of leaving a truck idling on the side of the road for hours, as this causes excessive exhaust soot buildup that can clog diesel-particulate filters and make for costly repairs in the long term.

SC Forestry Commission shops keep our fleet in an exceptional state of readiness by servicing equipment in a timely manner, making repairs in the shop or in the field when needed and inspecting machines periodically to catch any issues that might be detrimental to the safe operation of the equipment. Please join me in thanking all of our mechanics for their great work that often goes unnoticed. I encourage everyone to stop in and say hello to these guys next time you are near one of our shops.

The state equipment committee has been very active over the last several years sharing information and ideas that come from field personnel across the state. Many of these ideas have been put into practice through transport bed

design changes, tool box modifications on dozers and new emergency lighting on vehicles, just to name a few. (See the list of the State Equipment Committee on page 17.) Please learn who your equipment committee members are in your region and reach out to them with any ideas you have on improving our equipment.

Remember, our fleet (whether it be a tractor plow unit or a pickup truck) is a rolling billboard for the SC Forestry Commission. A clean piece of equipment shows everyone that our agency takes great pride in our work and great pride in all that we have to work with.

I look forward to what the future holds for the Forestry Commission fleet. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, comments or suggestions related to our equipment.



Equipment Coordinator Doug Mills goes over the features of new dozers with forestry technicians.



Pee Dee Mechanic Dennis Weaver works on a new transport.

Doug



The cover photo features Williamsburg Sector Forestry Technician I Clay Cooper's firefighting unit.

JUST FOR FUN...



See if you can find the hidden dozer located somewhere in this issue of Tree Country. (It will be smaller than the one to the left and NO, it isn't the one in the header of the Safety Message.)





Frequent Spot Fires Across the Line

This watch-out situation clearly indicates how much potential a fire has for rapid, uncontrolled growth. Consider the following questions if you are getting spot fires across your line:

- Can you handle increased spotting?
- List some ways you can keep ahead of spot fires (gridding the green, lookouts, etc.).
- What is your Probability of Ignition (PIG)? Is it increasing or decreasing?
- Do you have a plan for long-range spotting? In what fuel type and under what conditions is it likely? What planning would account for handling long-range spotting?
- Is help available if necessary? What kinds of resources will you have in place, or order, to handle spot fires?
- If fire behavior increases, is your position still defensible?
- Discuss what type of action you might take if a spot fire takes off.
- Do you have more than one safety zone in case access to one is cut off?
- Describe how you might utilize multiple safety zones.
- Do the primary lookouts have a good view of the situation?
- Discuss who might be acting as a lookout (crew member, air resources, supervisors, etc.) and how you will get accurate information from that person. Are you relying on an air attack that is busy with airtankers?
- Where are you in the burning period? Talk about how your tactics for finding spot fires early in the day to later into the evening may vary. Review PIG and what it can tell you about spotting potential.
- To reduce the risk, are you ready to retreat?

Keep your guard up even if spotting has not occurred for a few hours. Review incidents where you have had frequent spot fires and share what you have learned about controlling them.



Spot fires occur when embers land on the unburned side of a fireline. This Watch Out depicts an engine crew attempting to contain several spot fires which are increasing in size while the main fire is also growing.



Pee Dee Assistant Regional Forester James Brunson puts out a spot fire with water Feb. 16 in Darlington County.

Provided by Training & Safety Manager Stephen Patterson



This safety message comes from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Risk Management Committee's Six Minutes for Safety Program. <https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/6mfs>



Human Resources

Employee News

Please welcome the following employees who started with the agency in February:



Kacee Collins

Kacee Collins returned as the Pee Dee Administrative Specialist Feb. 2. Kacee lives in Hartsville with her husband and two children. She attended Florence-Darlington Technical College specializing in Administrative Office Technology. She previously worked for the Department of Social Services and the Forestry Commission. In her spare time, Kacee enjoys spending time with her two children.

Jody Martin is a new Forestry Technician I in the Horry/Marion Sector of the Black River Unit who started Feb. 23. Jody lives in Galivants Ferry and attended Aynor High School. He previously worked with Horry County Fire & Rescue and Mullins Fire Department.



Jody Martin

Please welcome all of the new employees to the agency!

Retiree News

Retired Manchester State Forest Wildlife Technician **Ken McGinnis** passed away Feb. 4. Ken worked at MSF for almost 43 years before retiring in 2017.

Retired Camden Secretary **Joanne Reeder** passed away Feb. 4.

Retired Pee Dee Dispatcher **Carolyn Campbell** passed away Feb. 22. Carolyn worked as a nighttime dispatcher for over 20 years in Florence.

Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Human Resources

—Lynn Rivers

Marlboro County Wildfire



Darlington/Marlboro Sector FMO Shawn Feldner took this photo on a 58-acre wildfire in Marlboro County Feb. 20.

Please send any wildfire or prescribed fire photos to mjohnson@scfc.gov. They will be placed in our photo library for use.

THE Benefits Beat



MoneyPlus Claims Deadline Approaching

The claim filing deadline for 2021 flexible spending account participants is March 31, 2022.

Medical Spending Account participants may submit valid claims for expenses incurred by Dec. 31, 2021. The COVID-19 Relief Bill allows participants to carry over the full amount of unused funds remaining after the March 31, 2022, reimbursement deadline into the 2022 plan year.

The COVID-19 Relief Bill extended the grace period for 2021 Dependent Care Spending Account participants. Participants can incur expenses through Dec. 31, 2022, and submit claims for reimbursement using their 2021 funds by March 31, 2023. Participants will forfeit 2021 funds left in their account after the reimbursement deadline. It's important to note, however, that these participants do not have to wait to file claims for eligible expenses.

For any questions about submitting claims for reimbursement please call ASIFlex at (833) 726-7587.

Human Resources

—Chetna Patel

New Resources for 2022

Be sure to check out PEBA TV (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?app=desktop&list=PLhoB8-x99RzDpRqo_fBjb-0wBLELmPNd7) for updated insurance and retirement videos. The online portals series will help you learn how to access and use our member portals. These videos include:

- “How to Apply for a Refund of Retirement Contributions”
- “Setting up a New MyBenefits Account”
- “Applying for a Refund of Your Retirement Contributions”
- “How to Designate Your Retirement Beneficiaries”
- “Your State ORP Beneficiaries”
- “Your SCRS or PORS Beneficiaries”

If you have questions or need assistance with any of this month's newsletter topics, please contact me at (803) 896-8874 or email to cpatel@scfc.gov.



Chetna Patel

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Youth Hunt Receives National Award

State Forester Scott Phillips accepted the National Deer Association (NDA) award for the 2021 National Event of the Year at the Department of Natural Resources' legislative dinner held at the SCNG Armory Feb. 23. The South Carolina NDA Youth Hunt held at Niederhof Forestry Center in December 2021 won the state award, then the national award. The Forestry Commission works with SCDNR, NDA branches and the Outdoor Dream Foundation to put on the deer hunting event for youth.



NDA Youth Hunt Coordinator Wes Chappell, Take One Make One Coordinator Mark Ferrell, State Forester Scott Phillips and DNR Director Robert Boyles were presented their awards by NDA South Regional Director Rick Counts.

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

For complete information on SCFC job openings visit <https://careers.sc.gov/>, search by agency for "Forestry".

www.jobs.sc.gov

Job Title: **Communications Specialist II - Dispatcher I**

Closing Date/Time: 3/16/2022 11:59 PM

Agency Hiring Range: Min: \$ 25,509.00

Max: \$ 25,509.00

Location: Colleton County, South Carolina

Governor Proclaims March Prescribed Fire Awareness Month

Henry McMaster has proclaimed March 2022 Prescribed Fire Awareness Month in South Carolina.

A coalition of state, federal and non-governmental land management organizations under the umbrella of the South Carolina Prescribed Fire Council requested the proclamation to raise awareness of the essential role that fire plays in both the stewardship of our natural resources and the protection of lives and property.

Prescribed, or controlled, burning is the skilled application of fire under planned weather and fuel conditions to achieve specific forest and land management objectives. Controlled burning is an ancient practice, notably used by Native Americans for crop management, insect and pest control, and hunting habitat improvement, among other purposes.

<https://www.scfc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/RxFireAwarenessMonth-March2022.pdf>

New Law Enforcement Officers Sworn In



Law Enforcement Chief Tommy Mills swore in three new law enforcement officers Feb. 8 at the Columbia headquarters. (Left to right) Spartanburg/Union Sector FMO Clay Howard, Clarendon/Sumter Sector FMO McDuffie Miles and Edgefield/McCormick/Saluda Sector FMO Colton Webb are the newest additions to the agency's law enforcement staff.



PRIVACY POINTERS



Personal



Bodily



Territorial



Information



Permission



Statement



Communications



Policy

Keeping Your Social Security Number Private

Your Social Security number (SSN) is a vital component of your identity. You may not be able to control whether it's exposed in a data breach, but there's still plenty you can do to help keep it safe.

What can identity thieves do with your Social Security number?

- File your tax returns and obtain your tax refund
- Open bank accounts
- Open new credit cards or lines of credit to make purchases in your name
- Open new services, such as utilities or internet, in your name
- Destroy your credit score and put you in major debt

Tips to protect your SSN and identifiable information

- Keep your SSN card and any other document that shows your Social Security number in a safe place; DO NOT routinely carry your card or other documents that display your number.
- Be careful about sharing your SSN, even when you are asked for it; ONLY share your SSN when necessary.
- Shred documents that have your SSN and any other personally identifiable information, don't just toss them in the trash.
- Check your credit report annually and monitor your accounts to look for unusual activity such as withdrawals or purchases.
- Check your Social Security Administration earnings statement annually.
- Protect your personally identifiable information; keep it private. Only provide your SSN when YOU initiate the contact or you are sure who you know is asking.
- Protect your personal computers by using firewalls, anti-spam/virus software, updating security patches, and changing passwords for Internet accounts.
- Protect your personal financial information at home and on your computer. Remember to not use the same email for your work email, shopping accounts, financial accounts, etc. because if a hacker gets a hold of your password they will be able to access all your accounts.

Administration

– Dana Austin



Dana Austin

Privacy Officer

Office: (803) 896-8805

daustin@scfc.gov

Ever Wonder...

Why are there no 'B' batteries?

Why is it that to stop Windows OS, you have to click on Start?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Why is vanilla ice cream white when vanilla extract is brown?

AttaBoy

Below is an email from a landowner through the SCFC App Feb. 20 regarding Dillon/Florence Sector FMO **Josh Thompson** and Forestry Technician I **Wesley Cain**'s response to a wildfire:

"Just wanted express my gratitude to 2 of your firefighters. I had a burn that re-ignited Saturday afternoon. Josh Thompson and Wesley Cain were called to my property. These two men were more than helpful. Can't say enough about their knowledge and professionalism. They went above and beyond to handle the fire. Not only was the problem solved but I was educated on the need for controlled burning and the services provided by the Forestry Commission. Pleasant people providing a great service!!

Richie McCutcheon



Below is an email dated Feb. 23 to State Forester Scott Phillips regarding Berkeley/Upper Charleston Sector Forestry Technician I **Jordan Jackson** plowing firebreaks for a landowner:

"Dear Mr. Phillips,

I just had firelines plowed by your Mr. Jordon Jackson, bulldozer MC-1-6, and wanted to say what an excellent employee he is. He did a super job making sure all the lines were secure so no fire could creep across. He gave me some very good suggestions for when I burn.

He made a very long day for both of us very productive, and left me very pleased and ready to burn.

You are lucky to have such valuable and helpful employees.

Sincerely,

Tom Pinckney

Photos From Latta Wildfire

Thanks to Dillon/Florence Sector Forestry Technician I James Bailey for sending in these photos from a two-acre wildfire Feb. 20 near Latta in Dillon County. The fire burned a young pine stand.



Employee Service Awards



SERVICE AWARDS FOR MARCH

Employee's Name	Position	Location	State Service
Leslie Woodham	IMT Coordinator	Columbia	30 years

Alarming Tulip Poplar Roots



Kershaw/Lancaster/Lee Project Forester Gwyn Clonger came across this tulip poplar tree near Liberty Hill. A large portion of its roots were exposed - condition that makes you wonder how long they will hold on.

Marion Office Has New Sign Installed



Horry/Marion Sector FMO Brandon Craig and Horry/Marion Sector Forestry Technician I Derrick Spivey show off the newly installed sign at the Marion Zone office. It was installed by all of the Horry/Marion Sector forestry technicians at their monthly meeting Jan. 31.



Gould Retrieves Missing Order of the Palmetto for Westbury

Retired Fire Chief Hugh Westbury was a supervisor, mentor and friend of retired State Forester Jack Gould. When Hugh passed away in October 2021, the fact that Hugh had been awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor awarded by the Governor of South Carolina, was attributed to him in his obituary. After sharing his condolences with Hugh's wife Ruth, Jack found out that Hugh never actually received anything but the acknowledgement of the award. He was never presented the award that was designated a few months after his retirement from the Forestry Commission. Hugh had been listed as a recipient of the award online (<https://scdah.sc.gov/research-and-genealogy/resources/order-palmetto>), but didn't have anything to show for it.

Westbury retired from the Forestry Commission June 17, 1982, but nothing was disclosed at that time that Hugh was to receive the award. Further research uncovered the fact that Governor Richard Riley had encountered a delay in signing the award, and thus it was not signed until November 28, 1982. Somehow, this signed award was never formally presented to Hugh Westbury.

State Forester Jack Gould started with the Commission in April 1958 as a young forester following his graduation from Michigan State University, two years after being drafted by the U.S. Army. Jack was assigned to work in the Kingstree District under District Forester Hugh Westbury. Hugh took Jack under his wing and helped the young forester start his career. Several months later Westbury was transferred to the Columbia headquarters. Over the years their paths kept crossing as

Gould progressed from Kingstree, to Gaffney, York and then back to Kingstree as the District Forester before being promoted to join the fire staff in Columbia. Hugh and Jack were back in the same building again.

Hugh and Jack and their families became good friends over the years. Jack even became Hugh's assistant photographer when off-duty. Hugh did wedding photography, and he helped Jack develop his photography skills and would shoot weddings with him.

Westbury retired from the Commission in 1982, but the two still remained very good friends. Hugh was very proud to see Jack's career progress up the ladder to State Forester in 1989.

The fact that Jack's friend and first boss passed away without ever receiving this prestigious award bothered Gould, so he started inquiring about it at the State House. After a month of persistent calls to several departments and personnel, Jack finally got in touch with someone who gave him an answer. He contacted Sheila Jones, and he told the story of how Hugh never received the award. Sheila asked his name again and put him on hold. Jack patiently waited until Jones returned to the phone and said, "I've got it right here." Jack was flabbergasted, to say the least. He couldn't believe that all this time the framed, signed prestigious award had been sitting in the State House almost 40 years waiting for someone to pick it up. He asked her to describe the award, so as to confirm that it was authentic, and it was!

Jack later inquired with Jones about where this beautiful award had been



Hugh Westbury



Retired State Forester Jack Gould presented retiree Hugh Westbury's Order of the Palmetto award to his widow Ruth Jan. 28.

kept for over 39 years. Basically, she did not know, nor could anyone else reveal what might have happened. Why someone didn't notice that the award had been there for an extended period, and had the initiative to check on its distribution, will remain a puzzle.

Jack picked up Westbury's award Dec. 29 from the State House, smiling all the way back to his car and all the way home. He called Ruth to let her know that Hugh's award was finally in hand. Jack happily presented the Order of the Palmetto to Hugh's widow Ruth at the Presbyterian Home Jan. 28, 2022. Hugh was a dedicated employee, and Jack was a dedicated friend who vigilantly tracked down the award that his friend and mentor never received while alive.

Jack, you are to be commended for your commitment to helping others!

Remnants of Old SCFC Phone Line Found

Piedmont West Unit Forester Michael Weeks, Greenville/Pickens Sector FMO Ray Cassell and Forestry Technician Ronnie Patterson and Edgefield/McCormick/Saluda Sector FMO Colton Webb came across the old Forestry Commission phone line to the Sassafras Mountain fire tower Feb. 11 as they were clearing a fire access road. The pole was lying in leaf litter.

This is a pretty cool find since the original lines are over 90 years old.

In the 1930s the Forestry Commission started building a network of telephone lines to link its firetowers with its firefighters. Agency personnel cleared rights-of-way, cut poles, strung wire and maintained the lines. Tower operators would spot a fire and dispatch the firefighter by telephone. Some firefighters were even equipped to climb the poles, tap on to the lines and make reports back from the field.

This may have been the very first telephone service to rural SC; it was



certainly the first to much of the state. At its peak, this system consisted of more than 2,000 miles of telephone line. When SCFC changed from telephone dispatch to radio, many of the lines were purchased by local phone

companies and energy cooperatives. The last lines were disposed of around 1970.

TIPS of the TRADE

We are introducing a new regular column that will hopefully provide some insight to new employees. If you have tips for any of our forestry jobs that might help new employees or enlighten others, please send them to mjohnson@scfc.gov.

If your tip is used you will receive a free annual subscription to Tree Country.

Tips from Pee Dee Regional Forester Mike Ney:

1. Washing your eye lids with Johnson & Johnson's baby shampoo will clean off soot and dirt from a wildfire or control burn.
2. Place your wet boots in front of the refrigerator at night. The cooling fan will help dry out your boots for the next day.
3. Use a roll of toilet paper as temporary flagging. It's good for a few days without rain, and it's larger and easier to see than flagging. It's more environmentally friendly.

Programs

Programs

FMU Students Receive PLT Training

Several Francis Marion University (FMU) students completed the first portion of their Project Learning Tree (PLT) training in the new K-8 Explore Your Environment Activity Guide Feb. 14.

FMU Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education Kit SaizdeLaMora requested this PLT training for her students. Kit is working towards becoming a SC PLT Facilitator through the “Facilitator in Training” program. She jumped right in and assisted SC PLT Assistant Coordinator Beth Foley with leading this training for the twelve pre-service educators.

Students got to participate in two PLT activities, explore the new K-8 guide, and learn all about the wonderful resources PLT provides to educators. At their next session, the students will be leading their own hands-on activities with their classmates.



FMU Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education Kit SaizdeLaMora introduces “The Closer You Look” PLT activity to students.



A student categorizes a variety of seeds for the PLT activity “Have Seeds, Will Travel.”



Two students do bark rubbings for the PLT activity “The Closer You Look.”

Education

—Beth Foley

Just Some Thoughts...

Have you ever listened to someone for a minute and thought “Their cornbread ain’t done in the middle.”

Aliens probably ride by earth and lock their doors.

If ghosts can walk through walls and glide down stairs, why don’t they fall through the floor?

If God sneezes, what should you say?

Programs

Programs

Williamsburg Holds Third Annual Learn to Burn Workshop

The Black River Unit held its third annual “Learn to Burn” workshop in Williamsburg County Feb. 16.

This event is made possible through partnerships with the Longleaf Alliance (as part of a NFWF grant), Williamsburg Soil and Water Conservation District Board, and the South Carolina Forestry Commission. The Longleaf Alliance’s grant and the Soil and Water Conservation Board sponsor the logistical side of the event including food and restrooms. The Forestry Commission provide the presentation, demonstration and tools and equipment.

This year’s workshop included 15 students from Professor Josh Castleberry’s natural resource class at Central Carolina Technical College, landowners and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) staff. The event was free to attendees and lasted around five hours. This year’s burn was broken up into three different blocks. The first block was a good demonstration of a backing fire. The second block demonstrated dot grid and strip head firing techniques.

Attendees who signed a waiver and wore long pants and shirts, leather boots and gloves and eye protection were allowed to get some “hands-on” training. They could use a torch, with SCFC personnel to guide them, to burn in the first two blocks.

The third block incorporated burning a slope around a pond. For this block personnel were able to light the top and show them how the fire backs down the hill and then light the bottom so they could see the fire run upslope and align with the winds.

The workshop started with a basic introduction of prescribed fire, hitting key notes like the benefits of a controlled burn on your property. Then pre-burn preparations (creating a burn plan, SCFC notification, fire breaks, weather), burning techniques (baseline, backing fire, strip head fire, flanking fire, dot grid fire, and ringing method) and liability were discussed. The class ended with the discussion of how landowners can get assistance and what to look for after a burn to consider it successful.

Following the classroom portion, SCFC personnel conducted the controlled burn. Black River Unit Forester Ron Holt was speaking with the attendees and narrating each step as the team performed the burn. Ron was in radio contact with the burn boss GraceAnna Cooper, and they could answer questions the attendees had about each burning technique demonstrated.

Georgetown/Williamsburg Project Forester GraceAnna Cooper, Dillon/Florence Project Forester Chet Foyle, Georgetown Sector FMO Jon Thomas and Forestry Technicians Tracey Scalzott and Jonathan York conducted the burn. This was Scalzott’s first burn as a new tractor operator.

After the burn, Forestry Commission personnel brought the attendees back into the black to show them some of the signs to look for like needle freeze if the trees get too hot, or broken bark on young sweet gum trees showing where the sap started to boil stripping the bark away from the cambium and killing the undesired hardwoods. The event was very successful with each attendee saying they learned something new. Our partners love this workshop and look forward to sponsoring it each year.



Dillon/Florence Project Forester Chet Foyle strings fire for the Learn to Burn workshop.

Black River Unit
—GraceAnna Cooper



Workshop attendees watch the third block with slope being burned (photo above and below).



Around the state



The Beauty of a Prescribed Fire

Anderson/Greenville/Oconee/Pickens Project Forester Trey Cox took this beautiful photo of a prescribed fire Feb. 23. It's amazing how the smoke and sun can work together to make a great image. Trey was burning 109 acres in Anderson County. Thanks Trey!



Former Edgefield Champion Magnolia

Edgefield/McCormick/Saluda Sector FMO Colton Webb stands in front of the former champion magnolia tree in Edgefield County. The tree has lost some limbs which removed it from its champion status.



Caught ON Camera

Fire Season Picking Up



Black River Unit Forester Ron Holt took these photos from a wildfire in Williamsburg County Feb. 11. There were eight fires on one road.



Piedmont West Unit Forester Michael Weeks sent in this photo of Edgefield/McCormick/Saluda Sector FMO Colton Webb cold-trailing a fire in Pickens County Feb. 11.

Edgefield/McCormick/Saluda Sector FMO Colton Webb and Forestry Technician I David Morrah wait as standby and watch a prescribed burn in Edgefield County.



Cherokee/Chester/York FMO Matt Gordon took this photo of Fire Warden Donnie Hampton plowing breaks Feb. 14.

Pee Dee Assistant Regional Forester James Brunson sent in this photo from a 60-acre wildfire in Lee County Feb. 19.

Caught ON Camera

Prescribed Fires



Piedmont West Unit Forester Michael Weeks sent in this photo of Anderson/Oconee Forestry Technicians John McGee and David Bagwell watching the line on a prescribed fire in Anderson County Feb. 14.



Manchester State Forest Assistant Forest Director Ben Kendall believes he received the wrong weather forecast Feb. 16 as it started to pour on his prescribed fire when rain was not forecasted.



Pee Dee Regional Forester Mike Ney reports on the baseline of a prescribed burn in Darlington County Feb. 16.



Pee Dee Assistant Regional Forester James Brunson returns from stringing fire Feb. 16 on a prescribed burn in Darlington County.



Darlington/Marlboro Sector Forestry Technician I Mason White patrols the lines on a Darlington County prescribed fire.



Manchester State Forest Assistant Forest Director Ben Kendall took these photos of a prescribed fire on Manchester Feb. 20 (above) and the torch on the ATV used to set it (right).



Williamsburg Sector Forestry Technician I Clay Cooper took this photo while at a prescribed burn Feb. 15.

Caught ON Camera

Prescribed Fires



Pee Dee Assistant Regional Forester James Brunson took these photos on a prescribed burn in Marlboro County Feb. 14. Darlington/ Marlboro Sector Forestry Technician I Lee Williams monitors the fire in his dozer.

Abbeville/Greenwood/Laurens Sector FMO Dale Curry took this photo of Forestry Technician I Chuck Milner on his first prescribed fire in Abbeville.

State Equipment Committee Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Cell Phone</u>
Doug Mills	Equipment Coordinator	(803) 530-0063
<u>Piedmont</u>		
Brad Bramlett	Assistant Regional Forester	(864) 915-1924
Phillip Reddick	Forestry Technician I	(803) 414-3942
Dale Curry	Sector FMO	(864) 389-0618
<u>Coastal</u>		
Kip Terry	Assistant Regional Forester	(803) 508-9106
Jonathan Berry	Sector FMO	(803) 664-2031
Thad Wimberly	Sector FMO	(803) 622-7217
<u>Pee Dee</u>		
James Brunson	Assistant Regional Forester	(843) 624-6721
Shawn Feldner	Sector FMO	(803) 983-0407
Wayne Smith	Forestry Technician I	(803) 445-9128

Programs

Programs

Edgefield/McCormick/Saluda Sector Staying Busy

The Edgefield/McCormick/Saluda Sector has been kept busy with plowing firebreaks, prescribed burning and fighting wildfires in February. Here are a few photos from the sector.

Piedmont West

—Colton Webb



Edgefield/McCormick/Saluda Project Forester Henry Hutto finishes tying in a line on a prescribed fire in Edgefield County.



Edgefield/McCormick/Saluda Sector Forestry Technician I Sammy Connelly strings fire on a baseline of a prescribed burn in Edgefield County.



Smoke drifts over a pond in Saluda County during a prescribed burn as the landowner paddles around in his kayak.



Piedmont West Unit Forester Michael Weeks checks on a fire on a steep slope near Glassy Mountain.

TREE JOKES

What must trees drink responsibly?

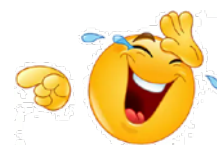
Did you hear about the big corporation that's making syrup from supposedly contaminated trees?

How do you get down from a tree?

Root beer.

They maple their brand off the shelves.

You don't. Down comes from a duck.



2022

FORESTRY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Forestry Foundation Scholarship is designed to recognize and encourage forestry students with high academic achievement and leadership potential. To qualify, candidates must be a citizen of South Carolina, maintain a 3.0 GPA or better, and be a second year student at Horry Georgetown Technical College (HGTC), or a junior/senior at Clemson University, majoring in Forest Management. Scholarships are awarded based on academic performance and financial need.

Up to four scholarships will be awarded to deserving forestry students attending Clemson University and Horry-Georgetown Tech. A minimum of one scholarship will be awarded to a forestry student attending each institution.

The Forestry Foundation must receive the following from each applicant **by March 31, 2022**:

- A 1-2 page typed essay describing why the applicant should be considered for the scholarship. Include complete contact information at the top of the essay.
- A recent high resolution head-and-shoulders photograph.
- A copy of the applicant's latest official transcript.

Packets should be emailed to: scfa@scforestry.org

with the subject line of **Forestry Foundation Scholarship**

or write: **Forestry Foundation Scholarship, 4901 Broad River Rd., Columbia, SC 29212**

The SC Forestry Foundation, established in 1980, serves as the education, conservation, and research arm of the Forestry Association.
SC Forestry Foundation, 4901 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212 ■ 803/798-4170 ■ FAX: 803/798-2340



HUDSON FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION *2022*

Consideration for the **Hudson Family Scholarship** is available to any South Carolina resident entering a two or four-year accredited College or University. Recipient must have and maintain a GPA sufficient for entrance and graduation as a full-time student. Recipient must have ties to the Forest Products Industry through family association or scholastic pursuits. Financial need will be considered as a factor for award.

The award will be up to \$4,000 to be paid to the student's account at the institution of enrollment. The award will be made as determined by the SC Forestry Foundation Board.

Application Process

The required form must be completed and submitted to the address below by **March 31** of the year in which a fall award is requested. [Form is available at www.scforestry.org/scholarship-programs.htm]. Applications must include a completed FASFA form for determination of financial need as well as a copy of an acceptance letter or evidence of enrollment at the student's institution.

Packets may be emailed to: scfa@scforestry.org with the subject line of

Hudson Family Scholarship

or write: **Hudson Family Scholarship, 4901 Broad River Rd., Columbia, SC 29212**

The Forestry Foundation of South Carolina, established in 1980, serves as the education, conservation, and research arm of the Forestry Association.

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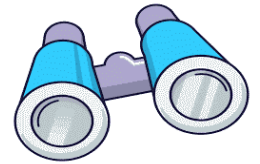
Please contact the Forestry Association for the complete details and packet. www.scforestry.org/scholarship-programs.htm

SPOT the differences

Can you find the 10 differences between the top photo and the bottom photo below?



Pee Dee Stewardship Forester Tonya Smith, Georgetown/Williamsburg Project Forester GraceAnna Cooper and Horry/Marion Project Forester Caleb Watson pose after finishing a prescribed burn.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

8. _____
 9. _____
 10. _____
- (Answers on last page)

Fire Weather Outlook

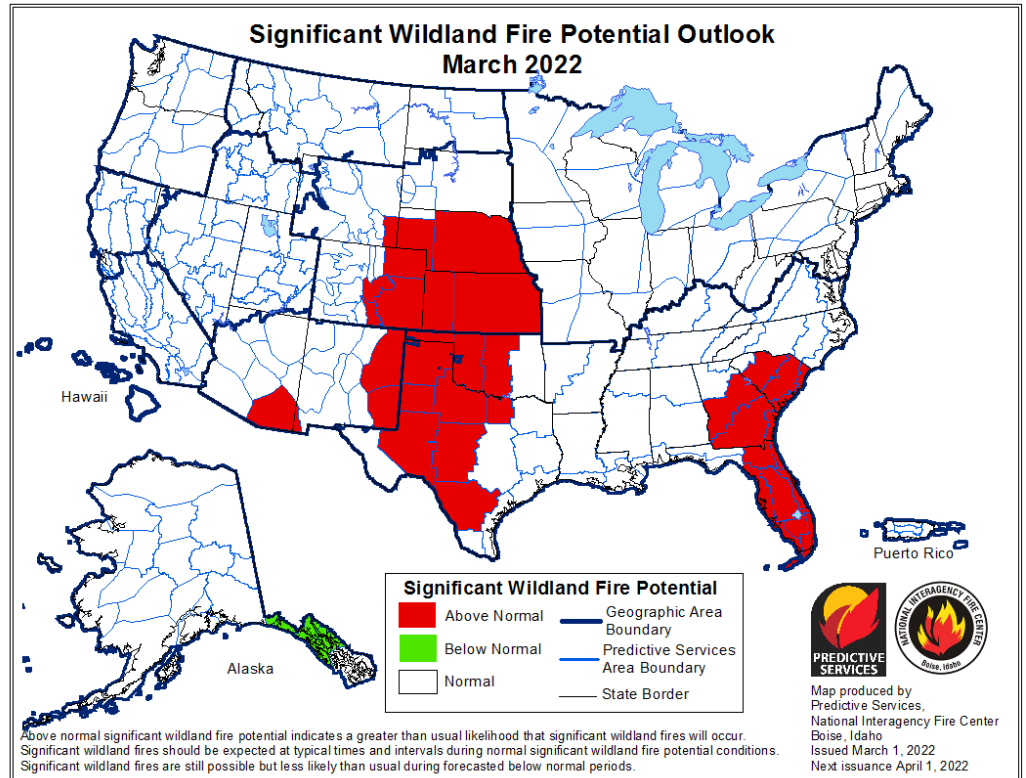
Southern Area:

Above normal significant fire potential is forecast for large portions of Texas and Oklahoma, as well as into much of Florida and the southeast Piedmont region March and April. The area of above normal fire potential in the Southeast is forecast to retreat south to Florida by May. Above normal fire potential will continue for western areas of Texas and Oklahoma into June, with normal conditions expected elsewhere.

The weather has trended wetter for the Southern Area over the past few weeks, with several large winter systems emanating from the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandle region. This is bringing a brief respite to fire activity, but drier conditions are expected across the western portion of the geographic area in the coming weeks. Above average temperatures are also

forecast into the spring across the southern Plains as well as parts of central and southern Florida. The La Niña pattern that is enhancing drier conditions across much of the area is expected to weaken, but its atmospheric effects are still dominating the overall weather pattern.

Fuels remain very dry across northern Texas and most of Oklahoma as well as the Piedmont and coastal plains of the Carolinas into Georgia and Florida. However, moistening has occurred during the last few days of February with a large-scale winter storm, but it is expected to be short-lived. Severe to extreme drought conditions continue across western areas of Texas and Oklahoma. The KBDI values across western Texas and Oklahoma are 500 to 600, with some locally drier pockets approaching 700, while 100-hr dead fuel moisture values are 6-10%. It is moderately dry east of the Appalachians from the Carolinas south through most of Georgia and into Florida, where KBDI values are 400 to 600 across central and southern Florida. Fire activity increased significantly over the past month, briefly subdued by large scale storms over the latter half of February, prompting a rise in the preparedness level to two.



Current Fire Numbers for South Carolina

MONTH AND YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS 5 AND 10-YEAR AVERAGE

Time Period	FEBRUARY		JULY-FEBRUARY		FISCAL YEAR	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
5 Year Average	145	915	657	5,368	1,363	10,869
10 Year Average	176	1,201	795	5,170	1,505	10,306
Current FY ¹	393	3,723	1,001	6,103	1,001	6,103

¹To date for current fiscal year

Amazing Trees

Grandmother



This amazing tree is from the NatureVibe FaceBook page. NatureVibe is created with the purpose of influencing the general public to love nature, protect its natural beauty, its value, its funniest moments and the historical aspects hidden behind its beauty.

<https://www.facebook.com/NatureVibes.me/posts/the-spirit-of-trees-/125679679040473/>

Photo of the Month



Williamsburg Sector Forestry Technician I Clay Cooper took this photo of a prescribed burn Jan. 26.

Spot the Differences

1. People in background missing
2. GraceAnna's fire shelter is purple
3. Rabbit added
4. Old tire added
5. Tree tops missing in background
6. GraceAnna's gloves missing
7. Caleb carrying suitcase
8. Caleb wearing cowboy hat
9. Airplane added to sky
10. Tonya's torch has a flame

Quote of the Month

"When people try to bury you, remind yourself you are a seed."

Matshona Dhliwayo

Please send in your photos or news to Michelle Johnson at mjohnson@scfc.gov.