

Tree Country

December 2016



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

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from the desk of
STATE FORESTER
Gene Kodama

Good day,
Do emergency situations now occur monthly and natural disasters annually? It seems that this has become the norm lately! Ice storms, hurricanes, floods, and wildfires have visited us regularly over the past few years. But, as an emergency response agency and also having a lead role for incident management for all major events around the state, our agency has a responsibility for such occurrences on a regular basis.

The 2014 ice storm hit 25 SC counties and did \$365 million of timber damage. The October 2015 Hurricane Joaquin flooding reduced forestry's annual economic impact by \$100 million and did a huge amount of property damage. Starting on the weekend of Oct. 8, 2016, Hurricane Matthew's wind and flooding caused over \$200 million in timber damage, created a tremendous amount of property damage, and took several citizen's lives. In conjunction with these events, the Forestry Commission provided immediate emergency response, damage

assessments, landowner assistance, and follow up recovery services. Before the "dust settled" from Matthew, the Pinnacle Mountain Fire started Nov. 9 in Pickens County. This fire is the largest wildfire to occur in the upstate in recorded history at over 10,000 acres. Because of its location within the most remote and mountainous terrain in the state, it has been incredibly difficult to access, contain, and control it safely.

The Pinnacle Mountain Fire's demands quickly exposed the Forestry Commission's shortage of staff and equipment needed to handle such a

large and extended event, and required it to request assistance from other states and the federal government as well as local and state resources. Thank goodness assistance was available.

The agency will continue to request the restoration of staff and equipment needed to handle such an event and others if they happen to occur at the same time. If outside assistance had not been available, the fire would have been much larger and damages extensive. The number of people involved with fire suppression, home protection, traffic, evacuations, and support easily exceeded 300 on some days. Total costs for the fire's suppression will likely exceed \$5 million.

Currently, there are about 100 people actively involved in the Pinnacle Mountain fire mop-up and site recovery, which will continue for weeks. However, the coalition of firefighters and support teams led by the Forestry Commission was successful in minimizing the fire's extent, protecting all homes and structures, and all lives without a significant injury or accident, or death.

This has been a monumental task but has been accomplished to date due to the expertise and dedication exhibited by all those involved. Some came from as far away as Oregon, California, Utah, Georgia, and Kentucky. Local and state communities, agencies, and organizations were also incredible in the amount of effort and support provided to the cause.

Firefighters who had fought fires all over the country said they had never seen such local and state support and generosity anywhere else in the country. But, that is South Carolina and its citizens, isn't it? We continue to be amazed and grateful to all involved and justifiably proud of our agency, its



State Forester Gene Kodama visits with SC National Guard pilot Dustin Keenan at the Pinnacle Mountain Fire. Keenan hunted at the agency's military appreciation deer hunt at Niederhof Forestry Center in 2013. Pinnacle Mountain and the fire can be seen in the background as well as the Wesleyan Camp facility that was graciously provided for use as the Incident Command Post, food service, and housing.

personnel, and our many partners and friends. A special bulletin with more details will be prepared in the coming weeks.

Another Thanksgiving has come and gone, and we have even more to be thankful for this year with the agency being involved in so many major incidents successfully and with all of our employees being safe at the end of the day and being able to return to their loved ones. Christmas is now quickly approaching, and we pray that there will not be another major incident any time soon. However, we will be prepared as possible to respond as needed to protect our employees, our state, and its citizens.

Best regards,



State Forester Gene Kodama speaks to the State Forestry Advisory Board Nov. 17 at Commission HQ.



American Holly is commonly used for Christmas decorations.

*Have a very Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New Year!*



Employee News

New Hires

There are several new forest technicians that started their employment with the agency in November and one new forester. Please welcome all of them to the agency!

Caroline Altman is the new Forestry Technician II at Manchester State Forest. She started Nov. 2. Caroline is from Andrews and attended Horry Georgetown Technical College, receiving an associate degree in science. She was previously a timber buyer for Low Country Forest Products. In her spare time, Caroline enjoys hunting and fishing.

Barrett Williams is the new Forestry Technician I for the Calhoun/Orangeburg Sector. Barrett started Nov. 2. He lives in Neeses and attended Edisto High School. Barrett enjoys hunting, fishing, and being in the outdoors.

Greggory W. Reeves is the new Forestry Technician I for the Charleston/Dorchester Sector. He lives in St. George and attended Dorchester Academy and the University of South Carolina.

The Dillon/Florence Sector has two new Forestry Technician Is,

Wesley Cain and **Ryan Bethea**, who started Nov. 2. Wesley is from Pamplico and attended Hannah Pamplico High School. He previously farmed and worked with White Timber Company. Wesley enjoys farm life and antique cars. He grew up in the woods and on the farm with his brother, father, and grandfather. Ryan is from Dillon and attended Dillon High School. He previously worked for the Dillon County Fire Department and Dillon County Roads and Bridges. Ryan enjoys hunting, fishing, riding motorcycles, and firefighting.



Wesley Cain



Ryan Bethea

Curt Gwinn started Nov. 2 as the new Forestry Technician I for the Lexington/Richland Sector. He lives in Eastover and attended Central Carolina Technical College in Sumter. Curt previously worked

for the Department of Corrections at Wateree Farms and Gonzalez Land & Timber.

Ken Hodge started Nov. 17 as the new Forestry Technician I in the Clarendon/Sumter Sector. Ken was previously a Forestry Technician I with the agency before. Ken resides in Summerton and attended Horry Georgetown Technical College. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and all sports.

Kyle Griffith is the new Forestry Technician I for the Calhoun/Orangeburg Sector. Kyle started Nov. 17 and lives in Rowesville. He attended Bowman Academy and has experience as a volunteer firefighter.



Donnie McDaniel

Donnie McDaniel is the new Project Forester in the Lynchess River Unit. Donnie will cover Chesterfield, Kershaw and Lancaster counties and work out of the Camden office. Donnie started Nov. 17 and lives in Elgin. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from Clemson University. Donnie has experience on an engine crew for the USFS. He enjoys anything outside and remote control cars.



Caroline Altman



Barrett Williams



Greggory Reeves



Curt Gwinn



Ken Hodge



Kyle Griffith

CAUGHT ON CAMERA



East Unit Forester Roy Boyd came across these beautiful monarch butterfly caterpillars on bronze fennel while on Joanna Angle's property in Chester County.



Firewise Field Coordinator Bill Wiley had this uninvited guest in his home. It is a green anole, which can be either green or brown depending on its environment.



Edisto Unit Forester Pete Stuckey was enjoying his fishing vacation in Edisto in October until Hurricane Matthew forced him to evacuate and come back to work. Here is one of the red drum he caught.

Employee News

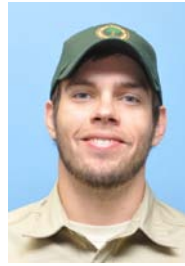
Comings & Goings

Charles Robinson, Chesterfield/Lancaster Sector Forest Technician, resigned from his position effective Nov. 27.

Cherokee/Chester/York Supervisor **Kyle Wyatt** resigned from his position Dec. 1.

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester Project Forester **Michael Broom** has been promoted to Coastal Region BMP Forester effective Nov. 17. Please congratulate him on his new assignment! If you have any BMP concerns in the Coastal Region, please send them his way.

Assistant Education Coordinator **Matt Schnabel** has been promoted to Environmental Education Coordinator effective Nov. 17. Congratulations, Matt!



Michael Broom



Matt Schnabel

New Edition to FIA Family

Pee Dee FIA Forester **Robert Lord** and wife Tanya welcomed a baby girl into their family Nov. 9. Kadence Marie was born weighing 7 lbs., 9 oz., and she was 21" long. She is their third child. Mom, dad, and siblings are all doing well. Congratulations, Robert!



Kadence, above, and with the Lord family: Annabelle, Robert, Michael, and Tanya.



BOXED WATER?

Project Forester Trey Cox sent in these photos of a container of boxed water that his daughter brought home from the grocery store. The message on the side of the package is similar to the message we stress during Wood Magic, that trees are a renewable resource. These cartons are composed of 76 percent of trees making it one of the most sustainable beverage packages available.



Programs

Wood Magic Wraps Up Another Year at HSF and Hobcaw

South Carolina's Wood Magic Forest Fair wrapped up another year by having its final two events at Harbison State Forest and Hobcaw Barony.

The Wood Magic event at Harbison was shortened to only two days, Oct. 13-14, because of Hurricane Matthew and the Incident Management Team's absence. The IMT was supposed to manage the event but was called away to assist with hurricane response. Once replacements to the staff were made, the fair resumed Thursday and Friday.

Over the two-day event, 307 students attended and 60 volunteers and staff helped.

The final fair of the year event was held at Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center in Georgetown Nov. 15-18. The IMT was to manage this event too, but was called away to the Pinnacle Mountain Fire, as were several other personnel who were scheduled to help. But changes were made in time to keep the event on schedule. During the four-day event 486 students went through the six stations learning about the importance of trees in our lives.

A big THANK YOU goes out to all who assisted with the two programs!



Piedmont Firewise Field Coordinator Bill Wiley explains the three requirements for fire at the Harbison Wood Magic event.



Georgetown Sector Forest Technician Wayne Smith and International Paper's Deidre Holt explain how a feller buncher works.



Retired Deputy State Forester Joel Felder distributes the pizza!



Pee Dee Urban Forester Lois Edwards and Pee Dee Regional Forester Mike Ney show how fire is made.



Personnel Manager Erica Brazile and Benefits Coordinator Allison Talbot hand out lemonade.



Williamsburg Supervisor Terry Cook and Dillon/Florence Project Forester Chet Foyle quiz the students on good fire and bad fire at the Hobcaw event.

Here are some teachers' comments about the program:

"My class loved this field trip and it was excellent with information that all South Carolinians need to know. The foresters had an excitement about their topic and the children picked up on their enthusiasm." – Delores Collier, Covenant Christian Academy

"I love how the kids are engaged with hands-on activities – very visual and interactive."
– Louise Hope, Pickens Elementary



Students react to the tree being cut into a board at the sawmill station at Hobcaw.

Education

- Matt Schnabel



Manchester Forestry Technician Ken McGinnis cuts a board at the sawmill.

Programs

Programs

Trees SC Annual Conference Celebrates 25th Year

Trees SC celebrated its 25th anniversary at its annual conference at Folly Beach Oct. 27-28. The conference was titled, "Community Forestry: Back to the Future," and speakers discussed some of the history of community forestry, as well as challenges for the future of community forestry.

Trees SC is a non-profit organization that provides a forum for the stewardship of our state's urban and community forests. Through its programs, Trees SC works to benefit the environmental, social and economic well-being of all communities in South Carolina. Funding is provided by the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Assistance Program, administered through the South Carolina Forestry Commission and funded by the USDA Forest Service. Over 160 arborists, urban foresters, landscape architects, and planners attended.

During the conference Nate Dubosh, Assistant Grounds Supervisor and Campus Arborist of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) was named the winner of the Golden Acorn Award.

The Augusta Circle Elementary American Elm in Greenville was named the Heritage Tree.



Coastal Urban Forester Frances Waite, Pee Dee Urban Forester Lois Edwards, and Urban Coordinator Lowe Sharpe helped plan the annual Trees SC Urban Conference in Folly Beach.



Trees SC President Drew Smith presents the Augusta Circle Elementary Principal Kerry Bannister the commemorative plaque for her school's tree being named the 2016 Heritage Tree as Jimmy Walters looks on. Jimmy attended Augusta Circle when he was young and he knew Principal B.T. Gault for which the tree was planted back in the 40s.



Trees SC Executive Director Karen Hauck and board member Danny Burbage open the conference with a "Back to the Future" skit.

Urban Forestry

- Frances Waite



Karen Firehock presented ways cities and counties can rethink forest benefits and how planners and foresters can work better together.



Participants enjoyed an oyster roast followed by dinner on the beach.



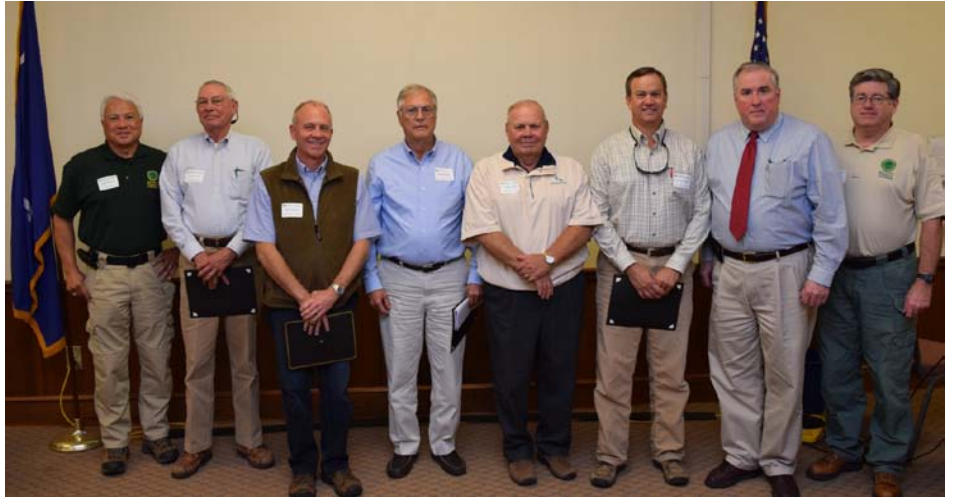
The bluegrass band Yee Haw Junction (including a couple of foresters) performed during the dinner.

Headquarters Hosts Annual State Advisory Board Meeting

The 65th annual State Advisory Board Meeting was held Nov. 17 at Columbia headquarters.

Members from across the state attended the meeting, which included a Forestry Commission update by State Forester Gene Kodama and a presentation by Deputy State Forester Tom Patton on Hurricane Matthew's impact and the Pinnacle Mountain Fire. SC Forestry Association President Cam Crawford gave an update on SC Forestry Association business.

Following the presentations, members elected officers. Mike Meetze was re-elected as chairman and Dickie Sherman was re-elected as vice-chairman.



State Forester Gene Kodama and Deputy State Forester Tom Patton present board members with service awards. From left to right: Kodama, Tommy Laney (Sumter County -15 years), Stan Tillotson (Spartanburg County -20 years), Randell Ewing (Darlington County -15 years), Gerald Stuckey (Berkeley County -25 years), Charles Segars, Jr. (Sumter County - 10 years), Ben Spearman (Orangeburg County-5 years), and Patton.

Kodama Visits Timber City Exhibit



State Forester Gene Kodama stands beside a Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) panel display in Washington DC at the National Building Museum "Timber City" exhibit Nov. 9. The panel is 54 feet tall. He was in DC to present the USDA Forestry Research Advisory Council research recommendations to the Secretary of Interior.

For more information on "Timber City," visit: www.nbm.org/exhibitions-collections/exhibitions/timber-city.html or <http://academicaffairs.risd.edu/2016/10/kim-timber-city-exhibition-national-building-museum/>

Did You Know?

On average people will spend a total of two weeks of their lives waiting for traffic lights to change.

The average stroke of lightning is six miles long. Every day 44,000 lightning storms occur throughout the world. A lightning flash is usually no more than an inch wide.



NFC Cone Harvest Completed

Hurricane Matthew delayed the start of this year's cone harvesting operations at Niederhof Forestry Center. We received in excess of a foot of rainfall from the hurricane, along with numerous downed trees, particularly along low-lying wetter areas. Once we were able to do initial clean-up work to remove downed trees and open up access to the seed orchards, we were able to begin cone harvest operations on Oct. 14, roughly nine days later than initially planned.

While the hurricane did bring much-needed precipitation that restored water table levels, the rain contributed to a slowing down in the cone maturation process, which results in a loss of moisture within the cones, causing them to eventually open and release seeds. This delay of cone maturation helped negate some of the time lost because of the hurricane's effects.

We were able to successfully complete cone harvest operations by Oct. 27. Some 2,484 bushels of cones were harvested from our 2nd-generation Coastal loblolly, our 3rd-cycle Coastal and Piedmont loblolly, and our 1.5-generation longleaf pine seed orchards; we sold 1,045.5 bushels of cones to International Forest and Genetics Seed Company again this year.

Although Niederhof received damage from Hurricane Matthew, we were extremely blessed that damage to seed orchards was minimal.



A green loblolly pine cone awaits its harvest at Niederhof Forestry Center.

Seed Orchard

- Chris King

Firewise Invades SwampFest

Firewise was a big hit at the recent SwampFest 2016 held at Playcard Environmental Education Center outside of Loris. The event had a whole section related to forestry called "Forestry Live," which included the Forestry Commission and Canfor Southern Pine. Coastal Firewise Field Coordinator Drake Carroll, Horry/Marion Sector Forestry Technician Derrick Spivey, and Horry/Marion Project Forester GraceAnna Schilz provided information on how to be firewise, and showed off a firefighting unit.



Coastal Firewise Field Coordinator Drake Carroll and Horry/Marion Project Forester GraceAnna Schilz enjoyed manning the Firewise exhibit at Swamp Fest.



Horry/Marion Project Forester GraceAnna Schilz takes a turn at making lye soap during a break at SwampFest.

SCFC/QDMA Military Appreciation Hunt



The Forestry Commission hosted a Military Appreciation Deer Hunt at Niederhof Forestry Center (NFC) Nov. 9-11 in partnership with the QDMA (Quality Deer Management Association). Four SC National Guardsmen participated in the hunt along with three auction winners and their guest from the national banquet and two SC branch QDMA banquets.

The hunt was successful in harvesting nine does, two bucks, and a coyote, with every hunter seeing deer. Over the two-and-a-half day hunt, 164 deer were seen on the property.

The Forestry Commission manages the wildlife population on NFC by actively managing the herd with hunts like this. Military appreciation hunts also show appreciation to US military personnel on Veteran's Day and allow the building of relationships while practicing good game management. The hunts also increase the awareness of the Forestry Commission and its services, and convey the importance of forestry to South Carolina. Gene Kodama presented the soldiers and veterans with SCFC challenge coins.

On Thursday, State Forester Gene Kodama and Chairman of the QDMA National Board of Directors Louis Batson presented the 151 Signal B Company of Hodges Family Readiness Group with a check for \$1,000 from

QDMA on behalf of the Forestry Commission. This money comes from the auctioned price of the QDMA banquets. QDMA Regional Director Rick Counts was also on hand for the presentation. QDMA branches around the state provided meals for the hunters. QDMA's Mid-Carolina Branch provided Wednesday night's meal, Shady Dale Farms with QDMA members provided lunch Thursday, and the Sea Island Branch provided dinner.



Thomas Martin harvested an 8-point buck on Veteran's Day. Thomas served in Iraq in 2007-08 and Kosovo in 2012-13.



State Forester Gene Kodama (far right) and Chairman of the QDMA National Board of Directors Louis Batson present the 151 Signal B Company of Hodges Family Readiness Group with a check for \$1,000.



The hunters show off their kills after a very successful Thursday afternoon hunt.

The pair that purchased the hunt from the QDMA National Banquet traveled 18-and-a-half hours for the hunt and enjoyed taking home two does. Patrick Shue from Sorrento, Fla. said, "You are very gracious hosts, and this was truly a great experience! You have a great spot here. And the food was dynamite!" His partner David Matthews from Fairlee, Vt. said, "This hunt was southern hospitality at its best! Everyone is so nice!"

Employee Service Awards



SERVICE AWARDS FOR DECEMBER

<u>Employee's Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>State Service</u>
Eddie Godowns	Forestry Technician	Santee Unit	20 Years



Did you see the “supermoon” Nov. 14? This full moon was not only the closest and brightest supermoon of 2016 but also the largest since 1948, according to Space.com. This year, the full moons of October, November and December all take place when the moon is at its closest point of approach in its orbit around Earth — a so-called “supermoon.” What’s more, the full moon won’t come this close to Earth again until Nov. 25, 2034, according to a statement from NASA. This view of the moon came from the cloudy coast of Georgetown.

25 Common American Customs Considered Offensive in Other Countries (Part 11)

MSN Business Insider

There are a number of customs and gestures that Americans use without thinking twice. But when traveling abroad, they will not only out you as a tourist, but could get you in hot water in other countries. Here are some of the most common American customs that are seen as offensive elsewhere.

11. Wearing sweatpants, flip flops, wrinkly clothing, or baseball caps in public

Sure “athleisure” (stylish sportswear worn outside of the gym) is a hot trend stateside, but in most countries, notably Japan and most of Europe, this sort of sloppy appearance is considered disrespectful.

Kodama Delivers Final FRAC Letter



State Forester Gene Kodama after delivering the Forestry Research Advisory Committee (FRAC) research letter to USDA staff: USDA Natural Resources and Environment Deputy Under Secretary Leslie Jones, USDA Natural Resources and Environment Under Secretary Robert Bonnie, Kodama, University of Missouri Professor & Director of Department of Forestry/Center for Agroforestry Shibu Jose, Ph.D., USDA Research, Education and Economics Deputy Under Secretary Ann M. Bartuska, Ph.D., and Director, Knowledge Management and Communications for the Forest Service R&D and Designated Federal Officer of FRAC Tracy C. Hancock. Kodama's FRAC term expires this year

UPCOMING STATE GOVERNMENT HOLIDAYS

Christmas Eve	Friday, December 23 (observance)
Christmas Day	Monday, December 26 (observance)
Day after Christmas	Tuesday, December 27 (observance)
New Year's Day	Monday, January 2 (observance)
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 16 (Third Monday in January)



Hurricane Matthew Causes Up to \$15 Billion Impact in US

Impact Forecasting, Aon Benfield's catastrophe model development team, released its monthly Global Catastrophe Recap report, which evaluates the impact of the natural disaster events that occurred worldwide during October 2016.

The report reveals that Hurricane Matthew swept through parts of the Caribbean and United States, killing 49 people in the U.S. – including 28 in North Carolina – and 552 people in the Caribbean, although the unofficial total in Haiti alone was as high as 1,600.

Total U.S. economic losses from Matthew were forecast to range as high as \$10 billion, while public and private insurance losses were estimated to possibly reach \$5 billion. Much of the inland flood loss in the Carolinas went uninsured due to low take-up

of the U.S. government's National Flood Insurance Program. Meanwhile, Matthew caused economic damage of more than \$5 billion outside of the U.S., with Cuba (\$2.6 billion), Haiti (\$1.9 billion), and the Bahamas (\$600 million) accounting for most of the loss total. Remnant moisture from Matthew brought flooding rain and high winds to parts of Atlantic Canada, where economic damages were expected to reach tens of millions.

Steve Bowen, Impact Forecasting director and meteorologist, said: "The extensive footprint of Hurricane Matthew left considerable damage and humanitarian impacts from the Caribbean to Canada. The system also became the costliest hurricane in the United States since Sandy in 2012. Despite causing billions of dollars in damage, it could have been even more

catastrophic. Had several slight wobbles not occurred, we are likely having an entirely different conversation when it comes to the financial impact in the state of Florida."

To view the full Impact Forecasting October 2016 Global Catastrophe Recap report, please visit: <http://aon.io/2eU9UQ3>. Along with the report, users can access current and historical natural catastrophe data and event analysis on Impact Forecasting's Catastrophe Insight website, which is updated bi-monthly as new data become available: www.aonbenfield.com/catastropheinsight.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission estimates Hurricane Matthew-related damage to the state's timber resources at \$205 million.

Richland Students Win “We All Need Trees” Poster Contest

Two Richland County students have been named state winners in the 2016 Conservation Poster Contest sponsored by the SC Association of Conservation Districts. Abigail Annsley Lanier of Lake Carolina Elementary School won in the 2nd-3rd Grade Division, and Abrianna Nicole McClerklin of Catawba Trail Elementary School won in the 4th-6th Grade Division.

Each student created a poster illustrating the 2016 conservation stewardship theme, “We All Need Trees.” This theme was selected by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to raise awareness about the importance of trees to people, wildlife, the environment, and the economy.

A large tree grows in the center of Lanier’s poster. On one side of the tree, Lanier depicts trees meeting “Nature’s Needs,” with animals making homes in tree branches, a beaver cutting down a tree to build a lodge, and water being filtered and cleaned by tree roots. On the other side of the tree, Lanier illustrates how trees meet “People’s Needs” by producing paper, food, firewood, and lumber.

McClerklin’s poster shows a cross-section of a tree trunk nestled in a bed of autumn leaves. Instead of annual growth rings, however, McClerklin includes a spiraling litany of more than 100 goods and services provided by trees, from “trees make rocking chairs, blocks, bed stands, olives...” to “trees conserve energy” and “prevent water pollution.”

Lanier and McClerklin, who were recognized as winners in the Richland County competition sponsored by the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) last spring, will receive cash prizes for their state awards, and their posters will progress to the national competition sponsored by NACD. “We are very proud of these students. Trees and forests are key components of our ecosystem and play a huge role in our state’s economy. It’s wonderful to see young people learning about these resources and using their creativity to educate others,” says



Abigail Annsley Lanier of Lake Carolina Elementary School won in the 2nd-3rd Grade Division.



Abrianna Nicole McClerklin of Catawba Trail Elementary School won in the 4th-6th Grade Division.

Richland SWCD Chairman Kenny Mullis (SCFC retiree).

Other 2016 Conservation Poster Contest Winners include Dylan Blackmon (Clarendon SWCD, K-1st Grade Division), Savannah L. Robinson (Lancaster SWCD, 7th-9th Grade Division), and Tahera Attarwala (Lexington SWCD, 10th-12th Grade Division). The 2017 Conservation Poster Contest will be announced in January, with entries due for local

judging in April. Visit www.rcgov.us/rswcd for more details.

<http://rcgov.us/Government/Departments/Conservation/ConservationDistrict/ConservationDistrictNews/TabId/670/ArtMID/1228/ArticleID/1154/Richland-County-Students-Win-State-Conservation-Poster-Contest.aspx>

AttaBoy

In an email to West Unit Forester Michael Weeks and Project Forester Henry Hutto dated Oct. 28 from an absentee landowner who lives in California:

Dear Mr. Hutto & Mr. Weeks

Just wanted to extend a belated thanks to you both for the excellent service and advice you provided us regarding our property in Edgefield County, SC. I learned more about timber than I'd ever need to know in a lifetime. We are working with Luke Penney of Thompson Forest Consultants as our consultant and have been very pleased. We have not forgotten about our promise to send oranges and will send them when they come into season.

Thank you once again for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Corinne & Silvera Grant



Michael Weeks and Henry Hutto with Corinne Grant on her property in Edgefield County.

AttaGirl

In an email to East Unit Forester Roy Boyd from Lorianne Riffin with the Office of Environmental Programs for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resource dated Nov. 8 regarding Project Forester Gretchen Spaulding:

Roy,

I just wanted to pass along an email that one of our DNR Board Members, Mr. Glenn McFadden, received in regards to Gretchen's work in the York, Chester and Cherokee county areas.

In an email to SC Department of Natural Resources Board Member Glenn Mcfadden from Douglas Lundell regarding Gretchen Spaulding

I don't know if you have anything to do with the SC Forestry Commission, but if you do, the forester for York, Chester, and Cherokee Counties is Gretchen Spaulding. She is WONDERFUL! (rest of line ran off the page and wasn't viewable in the forward).

So, if you do, please let her and her boss know that she has some very happy customers here.

Best regards,

Douglas J. Lundell

It's not often that state employees receive the appreciation and accolades they deserve, but this individual found her to be wonderful and very helpful. And as such, he reached out to Mr. McFadden in order for proper thanks and recognition be given to a good employee.

Happy Tuesday from your sister agency and a pat on the back for a job well done for Gretchen!

Thanks,

Lorianne

Smith Appointed SCFC Commissioner

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Eric Smith as a Forestry Commission Commissioner. We received a letter from the Governor confirming the appointment of Eric Smith of KapStone Paper to the Forestry Commission's Board of Commissioners. Eric is filling the slot that Commissioner Ed Muckenfuss vacated in June 2016. We once again thank Ed for continuing to fulfill his Commissioner's seat as we awaited the appointment and confirmation of his replacement and for his many years of dedicated service on the Board. We also welcome Eric to our Board and look forward to working with him.

SCFA Staff Receives SCFC Challenge Coins



State Forester Gene Kodama, right, presented South Carolina Forestry Commission challenge coins to the entire South Carolina Forestry Association staff at the SCFA's annual meeting in Isle of Palms Friday, Nov. 4. SCFC Chair Walt McPhail, left, helped present the medallions, which signify the Commission's appreciation for the association's assistance in helping the Commission accomplish its mission. Receiving the honor are SCFA President Cam Crawford, Communications Director Frances Taylor, Director of Landowner Outreach, Forestry Education and Programs, Janet Steele, Director of Member Services Julie Leary, Senior Director of Policy, Certification and Training Guy Sabin.

SCFC Chair McPhail Wins SCFA Distinguished Service Award



South Carolina Forestry Commission Chair Walt A. McPhail won the South Carolina Forestry Association's Charles H. Flory Distinguished Service Award Friday, Nov. 4 at the association's 2016 annual meeting at Isle of Palms.

A veterinarian by trade, McPhail adds this latest recognition to a long string of state, regional and national accolades for both his personal commitment to tree farming and his decades of outreach and service to the forestry community in South Carolina. Among those awards are the 2012 National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year, the 2011 National Forest Landowner of the Year and the 2001 SC Master Tree Farmer of the Year.

Join us in celebrating McPhail's achievement as the recipient of the SCFA's highest honor. Congratulations, Walt!

Human Resources

PEBA Perks in 2017

South Carolina public employees help make the Palmetto State a better place — and PEBA helps make life better for public employees. In 2017, we are promoting several preventive health benefits for State Health Plan primary members. We hope you'll take action, especially since these benefits and programs are available at no cost to you at network providers.

Featured value-based benefits at no cost to you

Coming Attractions – maternity management

This program offers pregnant women and new moms education materials and counseling sessions conducted by nurses. Sign up for the program to learn how to receive an electric or manual breast pump from a participating health care provider – at no cost to you.

Colorectal cancer screenings

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second most common cause of cancer deaths in both the United States and South Carolina. Early stage CRC can be detected through various screening methods so that the cancer can be halted or prevented. The State Health Plan provides coverage for routine and diagnostic colonoscopies and for a convenient, less invasive, early detection take-at-home test. Both screenings are available to eligible members at no cost.

Flu vaccines

The flu vaccine can protect you from influenza or make your symptoms milder. Other shots for adults can save your life or improve your quality of life by preventing serious infectious diseases. Following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), adult vaccines for pneumonia, HPV and other diseases are covered and available at no cost to qualifying primary members. You can get the vaccines from network pharmacies and network health care providers.

Tobacco cessation

Tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of death and disease in the United States. A health coach can help you make a plan and guide you through the steps to becoming tobacco free. For eligible participants, there is a \$0 copayment for some tobacco cessation drugs at network pharmacies, too.

Stress management

Prolonged stress can lead to serious health problems. A health coach – at no cost to you – can teach you effective strategies to prevent, relieve and manage your stress.

Weight management

Weight loss can improve your health right away. But weight loss can be challenging. That's when a personal health coach can help! You can learn ways to beat temptation and see that small steps can add up to big results.

Get on-the-go health information sent to your mobile phone by dialing (844)284-417.

For details, including important information about the products and services covered, visit www.PEBAperks.com.

Human Resources

- Lynn Rivers



PEBA Insurance Benefits Guide Available Online

PEBA will publish the 2017 Insurance Benefits Guide to the PEBA website in mid-December. **This year's guide will not be printed and distributed to active insurance subscribers.**

The complete 2017 Insurance Benefits Guide will be available for viewing, searching, downloading and printing in mid-December by going to www.peba.sc.gov and clicking on the Insurance Benefits Guide icon below the online access button on the right side of the home page.

If you still have questions about your benefits after reviewing your guide, contact PEBA at <http://www.peba.sc.gov/contactus.html>, (803) 737-6800 or (888) 260-9430.

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

Job Title: RE-ADVERTISEMENT - Forester I

Closing Date/Time: Continuous

Agency Hiring Range: Min: \$33,852.00 Max:\$35,545.00

Job Type: FTE - Full-Time

Location: Darlington County, South Carolina

Normal Work Schedule: Monday - Friday (8:30 - 5:00)

Residency Requirement : This position works in Darlington, Lee and Marlboro County/Surrounding Area.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

THIS IS A RE-ADVERTISEMENT. PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT RE-APPLY. YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSTING. Recommends and promotes sound forestry management practices to landowners to include examination of woodland and preparation of complete forest management plans. Assists landowners in implementing recommendations. Conducts prescribed burns; responds to wildland fires; performs forest fire suppression duties; marks and estimates volume on any stand of timber requested. Provides technical assistance in specialized areas of forestry to include best management practices, urban forestry and conducting insect/disease surveys. Provides information to the public regarding state forests and forestry services.

MINIMUM AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

A bachelor's degree in forestry from a college or university accredited by the Society of American Foresters. Current SC Registered Forester or eligible within two (2) years. Must pass a physical fitness test of walking two (2) miles in thirty (30) minutes carry a 25 lb. pack. Must obtain firefighter registration with the South Carolina State Fire Marshal's Office. A criminal background check is a condition of employment.

Job Title: Forestry Technician I - Chesterfield

Closing Date/Time: 12/17/2016 at 11:59 p.m.

Agency Hiring Range: Min: \$22,182.00 Max:\$23,291.00

Job Type: FTE - Full-Time

Location: Chesterfield County, South Carolina

Normal Work Schedule: This position works a 28-day/8-hour rotating schedule.

Residency Requirement : This position works in Chesterfield County /Surrounding Area.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

Responds to forest fire calls as required by the readiness plan. Performs forest fire duties with bulldozer tractor, hand tools and water handling equipment. Investigates fires to determine cause and gathers pertinent information to complete fire reports. Performs operator preventive maintenance on all assigned equipment and maintains equipment in a state of readiness; provides forestry services, such as firebreak plowing to landowners; assists with reforestation programs and other forestry operations.

MINIMUM AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

A high school diploma and experience in forest fire protection duties, forestry management, operation of heavy mechanized equipment, or relevant work experience. Position requires a commercial driver's license (CDL). Candidate must pass the written CDL exam prior to employment. Must pass the agency's physical fitness test that requires a two (2) mile walk carrying a 25 lb. pack in 30 minutes. Firefighter registration with the State Fire Marshal's Office, criminal records check and drug test are required.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

Associate Degree in forestry, natural resources or other related discipline.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

This position covers a multi-county work zone (Chesterfield County/Surrounding Area).

Some Thought-Provoking Analogies on Paper, Forests and Recycling

1. Forest area in the U.S. increased by 5,800 NFL football fields per day between 2007 and 2012. Forest area grew by 14 million acres between 2007 (752 million acres) and 2012 (766 million acres). A full football field including the end zones is 360 ft by 160 ft or 1.32 acres. Forest area grew by 10.6 million football fields (14 million acres of forest area/1.32 acres in a field) in five years = 2.1 million per year = 5,811 football field per day.
2. The volume of wood (trees!) on U.S. timberland increased by the equivalent of 159 Empire State Buildings per year between 2007 and 2012. Net volume growing stock on timberland in the U.S. grew from 942,949 to 972,397 million ft between 2007 and 2012- an increase of 29,448 million ft = 5,890 million ft per year = 16 million ft per day. The volume of the Empire State Building is 37 million ft.
3. In 2015, the U.S. recovered enough paper (for recycling) to fill 125 Empire State Buildings. Recycling one ton of paper saves 3.3 cubic yards (89.1 cubic feet) of landfill space. Empire State Building = 37 million ft (its space saves 415,264 tons of paper).
4. From 2005 to 2015, U.S. forests stored the equivalent in carbon to taking 137 million cars off the road each year. A conventional gas vehicle in the U.S. emits 2,720 lbs of carbon (10,000 lbs of CO₂ eq. per year) There are 2204.62 lbs/metric tonne therefore an average car emits 1.23 metric tonne of carbon/y. Between 2005 and 2015, carbon stock in the forest rose from 87,271 to 88,961 million MT of carbon - an increase of 1,690 million MT over 10 years or 169 million MT/y (equivalent to 137 million cars).

http://www.twosidesna.org/US/Some-Thought-Provoking-Analogies-on-Paper-Forests-and-Recycling?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Some%20Thought-Provoking%20Analogies%20on%20Paper%20Forests%20and%20Recycling%202016-12-08%20151441&utm_content=Some%20Thought-Provoking%20Analogies%20on%20Paper%20Forests%20and%20Recycling%202016-12-08%20151441+CID_9c67f1130ed431e1a3aa294dcc35521b&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20more

2017 State Government Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day	Monday, January 2	Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 23
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 16	Day after Thanksgiving Day	Friday, November 24
President's Day	Monday, February 20	Christmas Eve	Friday, December 22 (expected observance)
Confederate Memorial Day	Wednesday, May 10	Christmas Day	Monday, December 25
National Memorial Day	Monday, May 29	Day after Christmas	Tuesday, December 26
Independence Day	Tuesday, July 4		
Labor Day	Monday, September 4		
Veterans Day	Friday, November 10		

LOGGING AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Some of the ways in which we describe timber harvesting go back over a hundred years. Since then, meanings for some of the words have been lost. (Part 2 of 9)

Forestry is filled with terms that are sometimes misused but fun to learn about. It's part of the jargon that all professions must deal with. Even a seemingly common measurement can be ambiguous. Take diameter, for instance. Is it the diameter at 4.5 feet (standard) or diameter at stump height? There can be a significant difference in a logging contract.

Asking people to define their terms is a good idea. Words sometimes do matter. Clarity in conversation, and especially in contracts, can go a long way to avoid misunderstanding. In some cases, this clarity can mean the difference between thousands of dollars or the quality of forest health and vigor. Yet another good reason to hire a professional forester to help manage woodlands. This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/logging_and_the_english_language

“**Timbering**” is another antiquated term that is still sometimes used. The word “timber” refers to merchantable volumes of wood growing in a forest. The “ing” form (or gerund, in grammar) of the word really doesn't make much sense, especially when referring to harvest. It might be more appropriately applied to a growing forest, rather than a logging operation. But that's not what people mean. Timbering is another poor synonym for harvesting.

Using Wood Pulp and Footsteps, Professor Found New Source of Renewable Energy

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/using-wood-pulp-footsteps-professor-005444160.html>

While thousands of people the world over continue to go solar to generate alternative energy, a lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison just made a major breakthrough on a completely unique new conductive material: wood pulp. While the mention of wood pulp mention leave many scratching their head, the lab found a way to manufacture floorboards out of the commonly wasted material, and did so in a manner that took advantage of its composition of cellulose nanofibers. In other words, the team of engineers managed to develop a flooring material capable of generating electricity by something as simple as a footstep.

After chemically treating the wood pulp, the team — led by associate professor of materials science and engineering Xudong Wang and graduate student Chunhua Yao — found that the manufactured flooring produced a usable amount of electricity after coming in contact with untreated nanofibers. Knowing this, they then crafted their innovative flooring and found it to excel at conducting electricity. So much so that the team reported having the ability to replenish the charge on batteries and power lights.

What's particularly impressive about Wang and Yao's creation is how it not only manages to address an alternative energy need but does so in an extremely inexpensive way. Bottling energy created by footsteps isn't entirely new, but no prior projects have used wood pulp — a wildly plentiful and cheap material. In another potential win for the burgeoning field of roadside energy harvesting, the wood pulp floorboards could feasibly challenge solar energy if it proves to be a success.

"Roadside energy harvesting requires thinking about the places where there is abundant energy we could be harvesting," Wang said in a university article on the project. "We've been working a lot on harvesting energy from human activities. One way is to build something to put on people, and another way is to build something that has constant access to people. The ground is the most-used place." As mentioned in the article, installing Wang's wood pulp flooring in heavily trafficked areas like sports stadiums or universities has the possibility to generate a significant amount of energy. In addition, several layers of the flooring could be placed on top of one another, further increasing the energy output. "Our initial test in our lab shows that it works for millions of cycles without any problem," Wang added. "We haven't converted those numbers into a year of life for a floor yet, but I think with appropriate design it can definitely outlast the floor itself."

The findings were published online prior to being featured in the September 24 issue of the journal *Nano Energy*. Moving forward, Wang hopes to make the technology more efficient before installing it into an area on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Penn State Shocks Emerald Ash Borer with Decoy

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2016/09/basic-instincts-emerald-ash-borer-femme-fatale/>

An emerald ash borer hovers, checking out the female forms below him. He's drawn by how light plays across their bodies. He picks one, approaches, initiates physical contact—and is zapped by 4,000 volts.

Trying to mate with an electrified decoy is a grisly way to go. But entomologist Michael Domingue has no qualms about killing the emerald ash borer, or EAB for short. Since 2002 EABs have killed hundreds of millions of North America's native ash trees.

To catch them, Domingue and his Pennsylvania State University colleagues created a literal femme fatale: a faux female, battery-powered so it would lethally shock any male that mounted it. The scientists made a rough version of the decoy on a 3-D printer; EAB males looked but didn't land. The researchers also made a more realistic model, with a similar emerald hue and light-scattering surface texture as a real



Can you spot the decoy? The literal femme fatale (a fake female beetle wired to deliver a lethal electric shock) is second from the right.

EAB shell. In tests using both real, dead females, and high-fidelity decoy females, virtually the same number of EABs alighted on each.

Placing decoy-baited traps in areas

not yet affected by EABs could help scientists detect the beetle's spread in time to attempt preventive measures. "If we know sooner where it's showing up," Domingue says, "there might be more we could do about it."

AROUND THE STATE



During a break at the Piedmont Wood Magic Forest Fair in September, Anderson/Oconee Sector Forestry Technicians James Robbins, David Bagwell, and Randy Lyles assist Construction & Property Manager David Owen in cleaning the windows at the Piedmont Forestry Center.



Anderson/Greenville/Oconee/Pickens Project Forester Trey Cox sent in this photo of the tallest deer stand he's ever seen. It was constructed using a high-tension line base for powerlines by Ted Wheeler of Pendleton. He erected it section by section with the help of a friend who owns a crane.



Allendale/Hampton/Jasper Sector Forestry Technician Lowell Parnell mows the grass between the rows of trees in the third-generation orchard at the Niederhof Forestry Center in preparation for cone collections.

Clinometer Quiz:

(sent in from Forester Trey Cox)

A forester walked downhill 33 feet and measured a tree's height with a 1:66 clinometer. Reading the right side of the scale, he recorded the base at +8 and the top at +122. What's the total height?



Answer found on last page.

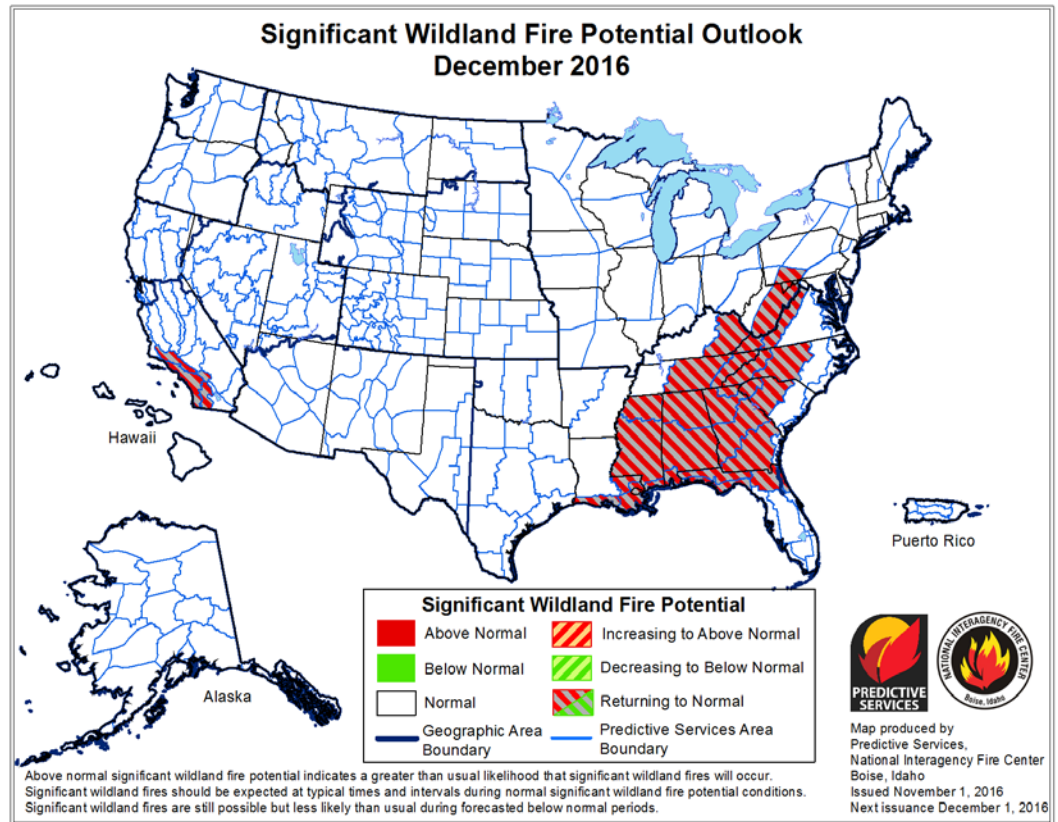
Fire Weather Outlook

The southeastern U.S. will continue to see a large area of above normal significant fire potential for December that will slowly transition back to normal through the Outlook period as well. This condition is also largely due to long term drought that is going to be exacerbated by dry leaf litter falling on top of already dry fuels and also occasional dry and windy periods. For the southern Plains there is a plentiful grass crop that presents the potential for occasional dry and windy periods to increase fire activity.

Normal winter conditions will prevail across the U.S. in January and February. There will be occasional periods of increased fire activity, but these will be infrequent and difficult to predict accurately. During this outlook period winter precipitation and snowpack development will be a critical situation to monitor as the 2017 fire season becomes the focus of many fire managers.

Southern Area: An area of above normal significant fire potential will persist in November across much of the Southern Area. This above normal region will return to normal through December and be normal in January and February.

Severe to exceptional drought now covers most of the central Gulf States with the worst conditions remaining across Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and the western Carolinas. Drought conditions continue to spread toward eastern Texas. Fuel moisture conditions across all classes remained dry with 100 hour fuels now in the 10th to 20th percentile in areas of Alabama and Georgia with 1000 hour moistures over a broader area covering Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee less than the 10th percentile. While the Atlantic and southern Plains states of the Area are faring better, fine and smaller class fuels continue to dry. Existing moist conditions across Puerto Rico are expected to continue with frequent rain events. Recent trends indicate a drier-than-normal pattern will persist through the fall. Expect the broadening drought from below average rainfall and periods of post cold frontal low humidity to produce high to critical periods of above average fire potential during November across the central and southern States and the Mid-Appalachians area. Gustier wind events associated with frontal passages will increase and accentuate risk for larger fire potential as the main timeframe for leaf drop and peak fine fuel loading develops. Expect minimal fire risks for Puerto Rico. Dry line activity and warm temperatures anticipated for western Oklahoma show potential for some increasing fire potential due to above normal fuel loading. Fire potential is expected to return to average levels for the Southern Area in December; however, West Texas and western Oklahoma will need to be monitored closely.



Current Fire Numbers for South Carolina

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

Time Period	NOVEMBER		JULY-NOV		FISCAL YEAR	
	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES
5 Year Average	123	533	462	2,246	1,646	9,744
10 Year Average	131	449	563	2,426	2,162	14,889
Current FY ¹	234	1,017	636	2,374	636	2,374

¹To date for current fiscal year
Summary does not include 5 fires due to fire reports not yet provided to dispatch.



*O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
 Thy leaves are so unchanging;
 O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
 Thy leaves are so unchanging;
 Not only green when summer's here,
 But also when 'tis cold and drear.
 O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
 Thy leaves are so unchanging!*

Song: "O Christmas Tree"

O Christmas Tree is a traditional German Carol. The author of the lyrics are unknown as is the composer of the lyrics. Several artists have recorded the popular Christmas song.
 Listen: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_3ngTHs6gA

Can you think of a song with tree- or forestry-related lyrics? Let us know, and we'll share it with everyone.

Answer to Clinometer Quiz: 57 feet

Photo of the Month



Pee Dee Administrative Assistant Susan Gensel sent in this photo of a rainbow on Oak Island, N.C., following Tropical Storm Julia in September.

BEWARE



These two Folly Beach surfers carefully watch the fin that is racing nearby. Luckily it wasn't a shark, but rather a dolphin.

Quote of the Month

The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.

Abraham Lincoln

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