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FOREST SERVICE CELEBRATES THE WEEKS ACT

THE EASTERN NATIONAL FORESTS A GREAT CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENT

by Gordon Small

A century ago, people of vision, conviction and courage made conservation history. They overcame entrenched self-interest and destructive practices that had laid waste to much of the land of the East and South. The outcome was an initiative that focused on the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run. Their actions created treasures from abandoned lands – long term public benefit in lieu of short term-gain.

We will never know all their names, but their success in establishing the eastern National Forests (those east of the 100th meridian), will stand as monuments to their foresight, initiative and lives well lived. These are truly the people's Forests, created with the consent of States and local governments and restored thru generations of cooperative effort and consistent caring for the land.

The high-water mark of these achievements was passed by Congress on March 1, 1911. The Weeks Act, as it is known today, was a new concept in this country. It was administered by a fledgling Agency and supported by individuals, conservation organizations, States and local governments. These eastern National Forests continue to grow in significance as our population grows and land use changes crowd out some of the open spaces that were once taken for granted. About two thirds of the American people live within a days drive of at least one of the eastern National Forests.

The Weeks Act laid the ground work for cooperation between the Federal Government and the States, providing for cooperation with, and federal matching funds for, State forest fire protection agencies. Numerous agencies and organizations expanded the scope and reach of the National Forests thru cooperative programs in fire management, wildlife management and research and, for the first time, allowed direct Federal funding of non-Federal programs of any type. This increased the responsibilities of the recently formed (1908) State and Private Forestry branch of the Forest Service.

The National Forests of the West were created by identifying candidate areas of the public domain (lands never in private ownership) and withdrawing them for National Forest purposes. The concept of a federal agency buying private land for public forests was unheard of. However, in the East, the after effects of unregulated logging and other destructive practices on forested lands had severely damaged watersheds and rivers. The result was strong public pressure on Congress to manage and protect the headwaters of navigable waterways. Floods and forest fires were a

major problem. Many properties with little foreseeable economic value were going back to the local governments for taxes.

The Forest Service, only six years old in 1911, now had the job of evaluating areas for inclusion in this new system of National Forests. Additional skills were needed and funding had to be obtained. Policies, practices and procedures had to be put in place to insure that land purchases met the objectives of the Act, and were done in a fair and professional manner. Since the purchases were primarily on a willing-seller basis, the Forest Service had to be sensitive to the wishes of landowners while meeting Agency needs. The creation of these National Forests was a wonder in itself. However, the job had just begun. For the first time in its short history, the Forest Service had the responsibility of restoring entire forested ecosystems across diverse landscapes. Perhaps the most significant opportunity that came with the new public lands was a chance to demonstrate that they could be rehabilitated and put back into production. It meant stabilizing eroding areas, planting trees, introducing professional forestry and other land-management practices, dealing with trespass, controlling cattle and wild hogs, improving access, constructing and managing recreation facilities, conducting inventories, developing management plans and a myriad of other activities. Many agencies, organizations, and individuals helped with this effort. The Civilian Conservation Corps of the Great Depression was most effective in improving the condition of these new eastern National Forests. In a 1977 report for the Conservation Foundation, by William E. Shands and Robert G. Healy, titled "The Lands Nobody Wanted", they said, "The work of the Forest Service in rehabilitating the eastern national forests – in large measure land that only recently nobody wanted – is one of the great conservation achievements of American history."

Given the challenges, it is a wonder that this extraordinary effort succeeded. However, one-hundred years later, 26 eastern States are home to 52 National Forests encompassing 25,462,914 acres (about 6.8% of the forested land in the 26 States). These include a wide variety of forested environments, ranging from the White Mountains of New Hampshire to the lakes of northern Minnesota, from the hardwood forests of the southern Appalachians to the piney woods of the coastal plain and pine/hardwood forests of the piedmont. That it succeeded is powerfully evident today. Some 132 Congressionally designated Wilderness areas are where once there were only stumps and debris. Thirty-four National Wild and Scenic Rivers, 9 National Recreation Areas, 16 National Game Refuges and Wildlife Preserves, over 27,000 miles of hiking trails (including 848 miles of the Appalachian Trail) and more than 3700 developed recreation sites, generate over 53 million recreation visits to these National Forests each year.

A timber resource, which in many cases was practically nonexistent when these lands were acquired, now totals an estimated 42 billion cubic feet of growing stock and about 135 billion board feet of sawtimber. Streams once degraded and choked with silt now flow with clear, clean, high quality water and provide excellent habitat for many species of fish and other aquatic fauna. Many cities and towns depend on National Forest watersheds to provide a stable source of clean water. Wildlife habitats were reestablished and managed, giving hunters and fishermen/women some of the best outdoor experiences in the East as the fish and wildlife returned to many of these cooperatively managed habitats. As the population grows, expands and encroaches into more and more formerly rural areas, the presence of these large areas of public land becomes increasingly important as places of respite and re-creation. There is the added benefit of showing those who own land intermingled within the forest boundaries, as well as those elsewhere, how they can improve their own land.

While many elements contributed to this success, the Forest Service focus on competence, public service and professionalism was a major factor. Whatever the political or social concerns of private landowners, local and State governments, or Congress, the men and women in green were respected and trusted.

The best way to commemorate and honor the achievements of the past 100 years is by continuing to manage these treasures with care and professionalism, always looking for ways to enhance the values they provide to the American people.

THE ORIGINS OF THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

by James B. Snow, USDA Special Counsel for Real Property, Retired

As we mark the centennial of the Weeks Act this year, it is interesting to examine how the National Forest System has evolved into what we know of it today, with particular emphasis on the eastern National Forests. The National Forest System was only defined in law 35 years ago with the passage of the National Forest Management Act. Three laws form the major pillars of the System as we know it today. The most important law was section 24 of the Act of March 30, 1891, the so-called Forest Reserve Act, which allowed the President to set aside forest reserves from the public domain. The second pillar was the Weeks Act of 1911 by which the eastern National Forests were acquired. The third pillar was the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937 by which we acquired the National Grasslands. The System has also been enhanced through land acquisitions under a number of other authorizations such as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, National Trails System Act, and other special legislation. But none of these approach the scope of the three pillars.

Under the Forest Reserve Act, the President could reserve lands from the public domain as forest reserves which were not open to settlement. President Harrison set aside the first forest reserve on March 30, 1891, later named the Shoshone National Forest. By the end of Theodore Roosevelt's administration, some 162.8 million acres of public domain had been set aside as forest reserves. The opposition in Congress to such massive reservations led to the revocation of the President's reservation authority in 1907.

Through the first decade of the 20th Century, virtually all National Forest lands were west of the 100th meridian. In the east, studies showed there were millions of acres of cutover and denuded lands, and the destruction of watersheds led to massive flooding. In response, the Weeks Act of March 1, 1911 was enacted which bears the name of its sponsor, Congressman John Weeks. From 1911 to a peak just before World War II, over 24 million acres were acquired and eventually formed the 52 national forests in regions 8 and 9.

The third pillar of the System were various New Deal emergency laws culminating with the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937 which was enacted in response to the massive erosion resulting from drought and the cultivation of submarginal farm lands. Through 250 land utilization projects (LUPs) in 45 states, the government bought abandoned or foreclosed lands, relocated tenants, and undertook resource restoration mainly through the Soil Conservation Service. In 1953, about 8.8 million acres were transferred to the Forest Service for administration. In the Eisenhower Administration, much of these lands were transferred to other federal and state agencies, but 3.8 million acres have been retained as National Grasslands.

All lands in the National Forest System are said to have the "status" of the authority by which they came under Forest Service administration, and that status can affect management. For example, lands reserved under the Forest Reserve Act are said to have "public domain" (PD) status, and such lands are open to location and entry under the mining laws. Weeks Act lands are generally referred to as "acquired lands" and they are not open to the general mining laws. National Grasslands are "Bankhead Jones lands" (B-J) and are subject to more liberal disposition authorities. Similarly, lands acquired under various special authorities might have management requirements unique to that authority. Congress attempted to simplify land status by passage of the Act of September 2, 1958, which generally gave Weeks Act status to all lands which had been acquired within the exterior boundaries of the National Forests.

The eastern National Forests are a hodgepodge of lands acquired, reserved or transferred under various authorities. Some are a mixture of PD and acquired lands such as the Ozark National Forest where 273,175 acres of public domain were withdrawn in 1908. Some B-J lands were transferred to National Forests and given Weeks Act status such as the Tuskegee National Forest in Alabama and the St. Francis National Forest in Arkansas. In New York, a former Land Utilization Project was designated in 1983 as the Finger Lakes National Forest.

A century ago, nobody could have envisioned the National Forest System as we know it today. There was no grand plan, but rather national authorities were used to address local problems and needs. In the east, the National Forests were built from the ground up, often patched together under various authorities and appropriations over many decades. But, however derived, these lands now constitute extraordinary public resources of immense value.

For more information, the Forest History Society has a web site with information about the formation of the National Forests.

<http://www.foresthistory.org/ASPNET/Places/NationalForests.aspx>



JOHN W. WEEKS (1860-1926)

John Wingate Weeks was born on April 11, 1860 in New Hampshire. He grew up on the family farm on Mount Prospect, near the town of Lancaster. He likely developed a lasting appreciation for the outdoors during a childhood surrounded by the lakes, rivers, forests and mountains of rural New Hampshire.

Weeks entered the United States Naval Academy in 1877, and graduated in 1881. After graduation he spent years serving in the Navy before eventually marrying and establishing a permanent home in Newton, Massachusetts. There he helped found and served as partner in a prominent banking and securities firm in Boston.

After great success in the financial sector Weeks became involved in local politics, serving as Alderman and then Mayor of the town of Newton. He was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1905, serving the 12th Congressional District of Massachusetts.

Weeks most notable accomplishment as Congressman came four years later in 1909 when he introduced a bill in the House of Representatives concerning the federal purchase of forest

reserves. This bill would eventually pass both the House and Senate and be signed into law by President Taft on March 1, 1911. The Weeks Act authorized the government to purchase lands for stream-flow protection, and to maintain the lands as national forests. This made it possible for the national forest system to expand into the eastern United States.

He served in the House of Representatives until 1913 when he was elected to the Senate. During the Republican National Convention of 1916, Weeks received 105 votes for the Presidential nomination. His service in the Senate ended in 1919, but he remained active in national politics. In March 1921, Weeks was appointed as Secretary of War by President Harding and remained in this position into the Coolidge administration when health issues forced him to resign in late 1925. After returning to New Hampshire Weeks died on July 12, 1926.

President's Corner:

"Now, what was the Weeks Act?" I asked myself when I heard that the Forest Service would be celebrating its centennial this year. I remembered, as a new forester starting out in my Forest Service career that we had to spend our first year being indoctrinated to its history and culture. Part of that training included reading a number of "programmed texts." The idea was that we would read a small section of these books, then that section would be repeated, but with some blanks spots throughout the repeated text. We were to fill in the blanks with the appropriate words, like "navigable stream," and it would be imprinted within our brain so that we would not forget it. I did remember that the term "navigable stream" was a pretty big deal for the Forest Service, and that one of my college professors had even defined "navigable stream" as a stream that could "float a log." Well, after forty-plus years, that is all a bit dim now.

According to Wikipedia, one of my primary reference sources these days, the Weeks Act, named after Congressman John W. Weeks, was passed by the U. S. Congress on March 1, 1911. It authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to "examine, locate and recommend for purchase ... such lands within the watersheds of navigable streams as ... may be necessary to the regulation of the flow of navigable streams ..." The lands so acquired were to be managed and maintained as national forests. The Weeks Act was originally intended for purchase of lands east of the Mississippi, but later some western lands were also acquired under it. Here in the Southern Region, the George Washington and the Pisgah National Forests were acquired and established by the Weeks Act, plus another 31,000 acres were purchased in north Georgia that would later become part of the Chattahoochee National forest. The Weeks Act was substantially expanded and modified by the Clark-McNary Act in 1924.

Oh, yes. I remember it all now. I feel a little embarrassed that I could not immediately recall what the Weeks Act was all about. The only excuse I can offer is that I was young then, with little experience, and had so much ahead of me.

Today, we hear a lot about how our federal government and Congress can make such a mess of things. It is too easy to forget that there have been some major issues that our government has risen to the occasion and managed very well. The Weeks Act of 1911 is yet another example one of those mostly forgotten U.S. Government "success" stories. It is certainly worth celebrating.

Larry Bishop, President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2011 LUNCHEONS ARE JUNE 2nd and DECEMBER 1st

Our June 2, 2011 luncheon will be at the Petite Auberge Restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center, 2935 North Druid Hills Road, Atlanta. We gather at 11:30 am for fellowship and lunch is served at 12:00 noon. The cost of the meal is \$13 per person. Reservations must be made no later than Monday May 30th. Call either Nancy Sorrells at (770) 469-5799 or Joyce Keith at (770) 277-5841. Leave a message on their answering machine if you do not reach one of them. **It is important to let either Nancy or Joyce know if you find that you are unable to attend after you have made a reservation.** We are charged for the number of reservations turned in the day before the luncheon.

Rex Mann, SFSRA member, will be our speaker. He will talk about the Environmental Education Center in West Yellowstone, Montana. A non-profit organization, which is attempting to increase kids awareness of the natural world, this group believes that most kids today are "nature deprived" and as grandparents and retirees, they are trying to change this. You may recall that the November 2010 Dixie Ranger contained an article about this program. **Call today to make your reservation!**

R-8 RETIREES GET TOGETHER

Northeast Atlanta - Please note change for monthly breakfast. Since probably the 1970's the Forest Service retirees in NE Atlanta have been meeting at Matthews Cafeteria in Tucker each month for a friendly breakfast. After a trial run in February, it was unanimously voted to change locations. The NE Atlanta retirees will now meet for breakfast the last Tuesday of each month (except for December) at the IHOP Restaurant, 4205 Stone Mountain Highway, that's Hwy 78, at 7:30 am. The restaurant is located in the Killian Hills Village Shopping Center between Pet/Smart, Home Depot and the Sports Authority just west of Killian Hill Road. Spouses are always welcome.

Cobb County Georgia - Retirees are now meeting at "My Country Kitchen", 2740 Summers Street, Kennesaw, Georgia. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am. Good time for all with great fellowship.

Cherokee National Forest - Retirees meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in Cleveland, TN, at the Golden Corral on Stuart Road Paul Huff.

Ouachita National Forest - Retirees, spouses and friends meet the third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 am for breakfast at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in the Cornerstone Shopping Center, Hot Springs, Arkansas. Jim Wenner sent a photograph of their August meeting which will be in the next Dixie Ranger.

Jefferson National Forest - Retirees get together at noon on the second Wednesday of even numbered months at the Roanoker Restaurant in Roanoke, Virginia. They have been meeting for the last 19 years. No dues are collected and only rarely are there programs or expressions of professional concerns. For information, contact Charles Blankenship at (540) 774-6272.

George Washington National Forest - Retirees, spouses and friends meet for breakfast at 9:00 am on the first Wednesday of even numbered months at the Village Inn Restaurant, on US 11, a short distance off I-81 at Exit 240.

Highlands - Robbinsville - Franklin - Murphy North Carolina Area - Retirees meet at 11:30 am for lunch on the last Wednesday of every month in Franklin. Contact George Lynch for the location as it may be in a different place each month. George's e-mail is georgelynch@verizon.net phone: (828) 369-9722.

Francis Marion & Sumpter National Forests - Ocean View Seafood Restaurant in Columbia, SC, is the location of the next luncheon on April 13, 2010 at 11:30 am. Retirees plan to continue meeting the second Wednesday of April and October, unless circumstances warrant otherwise. Changes from this schedule will probably be rare. Please contact Vicki Scott at (803) 364-2504 – cyberfogie@aol.com or Glenda Wood at (864) 445-4751 – tanner2010@centurylink.net for details about the meeting scheduled for April 13, 2011.

2012 FOREST SERVICE REUNION

Rendezvous in the Rockies -- Vail, Colorado 2012

Mark your calendar and make sure to talk to others about attending this great event. The 2012 National Forest Service Retirees Reunion will be in Vail, Colorado at the Vail Mountain Marriott from **September 17-21, 2012**. This is an outstanding location and a wonderful facility. The fall colors and scenery will be outstanding with the crispness of fall and the sparkle of Colorado blue skies. The committee is already hard at work putting together a wonderful program, with exciting field trips, and other special events. Vail is centrally located in the Rocky Mountains and is easily accessible by train, plane, and automobile. This location and timing will ensure that all participants will enjoy spectacular country, lasting friendships, and wonderful memories. U.S. Forest Service retirees, current employees, partners and vendors are invited and a good mix is expected to attend. There will be plenty to do at the reunion – renew friendships, get up-dates on Forest Service activities, attend historical presentations and meet with current Forest Service leadership. More specific information will be made available as the program as events are firmed up, but until then mark your calendar, put a sticky note on the refrigerator, and make sure to talk to others about coming to this great event.

Visit the Reunion website: <http://fsreunion2012.com>

JOYCE KILMER MEMORIAL FOREST

75th Anniversary Celebration – Saturday July 30th

Joe Bonnette, SFSRA member from Robbinsville, NC writes that this celebration will be near Robbinsville at Rattleford Campground. The event is open to the general public, and they would like to give a special invitation to all current and former Forest Service employees. Plans include a 5k/10k, a homecoming event for the Cheoah District, a rededication ceremony and other outdoor activities. The homecoming and ceremony will be from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Food and refreshments will be available and they hope to have special guests to give dedication addresses.. They are also hopeful that some of the Kilmer family will be in attendance. More information will be provided later. The Cheoah Ranger District, Nantahala National Forest and the Partners of Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness Area are co-sponsors of the celebration. For more information

please contact Joe Bonnette at (828) 479-3855 or jbonnette@frontier.com or the Cheoah Ranger District at (828) 479-6431.

ARKANSAS TRAILS DAY – Saturday May 7th

Jim Wenner, SFSRA member from Hot Springs, Arkansas, writes that The Ouachita National Forest and Friends of the Ouachita Trail are planning a 40th anniversary celebration of the establishment of this 200-mile trail which runs from near Little Rock, AR, to Talihina, OK. The celebration will honor it's founding father, Art Cowley who was recreation assistant on the Ouachita National Forest in the 1970's. With the help of funding from Art's family and the Ouachita National Forest, a large boulder and brass plaque will be placed at the Lake Sylvia Trailhead where the first segment of the trail was dedicated 40 years ago.

Dedication of the plaque will take place as a part of the May 7th celebration and reads: "In this 40th year after completion of this first section of the Ouachita Trail in 1971, we remember and honor the **'FATHER OF THE OUACHITA TRAIL' ARTHUR P. COWLEY** US Forester, Environmental Educator and Big Tree Expert – April 9, 1932 to March 4, 2010". It was his vision and dedicated efforts that made the Ouachita National Recreation Trail a reality. SFSRA member John Archer was the District Ranger on the Jessieville District of the Ouachita National Forest from 1970 to 1997. The trail now stretches from Pinnacle Mountain State Park 223 miles west to Talimena State Park, Oklahoma. The activities will begin at 10:00 am at the Lake Sylvia Trailhead.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

ROGER HATCH - Georgia - The Forest Service has changed since I retired. I can remember when 202C sales were authorized by the district ranger; fire wardens were prevention and suppression crews; and the Forest Service made more money than they spent! Times have changed!

JACK EDWARDS - North Carolina - Here are my dues for a couple more years. I always look forward to reading The Dixie Ranger. Keep up the good work.

BEN STANSEL - Tennessee - Here are dues for two more years. Went fishing with Naylor in May - really enjoyed it!

DAVID LARSON - Georgia - I've gone almost 86 years without ever getting sick enough to go to the hospital. Well, that ended in October and I found out I have colitis. What a shock when I found out I had to go on a gluten-free diet! Try going without wheat in your diet - it isn't easy. All that good food at Thanksgiving and hardly any of it that I can eat. If there are any fellow sufferers of colitis that have mastered the gluten-free diet, I'd like to hear from them.

MARQ WEBB - Louisiana - Here's my check for 2011. I look forward to every issue of The Dixie Ranger. Ya'll are doing a great job. Thanks!

BUD JOHNSTON - Alabama - As I enjoy the latest issue of The Dixie Ranger, I notice that I am paid through the end of this year which is quickly coming to a close. Time seems to speed by now-a-days. Anyway, here is my check for a few more years. I have no intention of missing any of these publications. You all do a great job with it. Things are going well on the Johnston home

front. We are now thoroughly enjoying our 6 grandchildren (one more is on the way next Spring); and I am doing my best to spoil them when they are in my care. The youngest is 6 months and the oldest about 3 ½. Thanks for keeping us linked together.

MIKE DAWSON - Louisiana - My dues! Read "DR" cover to cover each issue!

DAN NOLAN - Colorado - Enclosed are my dues for 3 years. Merilyn and I are still enjoying life in the Rockies. Hope to see you all in 2012 at the National Reunion in Vail.

JERRY ROCKETT - Virginia - Here is an application for my friend George Perry. Years ago, Howard Burnett bought my first year as a SFSRA member. I am now doing the same for George. He retired in 1993 from State and Private, Washington Office.

KAY ERWIN - Louisiana - Here are my dues for 2010 and 2011. Sorry about being late for 2010. Nothing new here in Alexandria, Louisiana, except the cold weather.

KEITH ARGOW - Virginia - Still publishing National Woodlands magazine, as well as Fire Lookout magazine. Also trading land a lot. The Forest Service is about out of the land business.

GEORGE FREELAND - Tennessee - Just had surgery on my right ankle to fuse 2 bones together with 3 screws. All that walking for the Forest Service has finally caught up with me!

LOIS WILLIS-WATTS - Georgia - Here are my dues for 2010 and 2011. Didn't realize I owed past due "2010" dues until reading the November 2010 Dixie Ranger. Sorry to miss the Christmas Luncheon this year. My sweet husband Jim is not doing well with COPD right now. I don't like to leave him alone for too many hours at a time. I just talked with Nancy and she filled me in on everybody. Sounds like the luncheon was good with a lot of people. Hope I can come to the next one. Thanks for your good work.

HARVEY BENSON - Louisiana - My friend, Michael Sparks, encouraged me to send this application. I have been retired from the USDA, Forest Service, Kisatchie National Forest since 1992. The following information Mike indicated you would need to get me signed up. (See Harvey's information in the New Members section.)

BOBBY SEBASTIAN - Louisiana - I appreciate the work you're doing with the Dixie Ranger. I look forward to every issue and learning news on people I know and worked with. The enclosed check should catch me up for a few years on dues. Abigail and I are still in Pineville, Louisiana, and consider ourselves tri-coastal now. That is, one kid (and their families) on each coast. My son, in Oregon, works for the Forest Service on the Fremont-Winema National Forest as a Silviculturist, the daughter in Baton Rouge is a teacher and the daughter in St Augustine is finishing Physical Therapy school in April. We're both retired now and frankly, I don't know how I ever had time to work. One of my activities is with the Southern Forest Heritage Museum in Longleaf, Louisiana. Anyone that would like to know more about this really interesting place can visit our website at www.forestheritagemuseum.org or contact me. We still enjoy riding our Harley and flying my ultra-light aircraft. Abigail will ride the bike but won't fly with me. I enjoy reading the stories people write and will try to contribute one some day.

RUTH ANN CRAIG - Virginia - Have been meaning to join the SFSRA for quite sometime but failed to fill out the form. I was secretary to the Forest Supervisor of the George Washington National Forest before it was combined with the Jefferson NF.

KEITH McLAUGHLIN - Georgia - Enclosed are my dues for the next two years. I am willing to risk that the earth will not come to an end this coming May, and that the Mayans are wrong in their prediction that the end of the earth is in 2012. However, if I should be wrong in taking this risk; please keep the balance of my dues. Thank you for the good work that you and your fellow SFSRA officers are doing. I look forward to receiving the excellent publication "The Dixie Ranger".

PHYLLIS CLOUTIER - Alabama - Here's my check for \$30. This will take care of 2009, 2010 and 2011. Also our e-mail address has changed (all changes are in the new directory). Really enjoy The Dixie Ranger.

BRUCE HARVEY - Florida - Thanks for the work you all do on this. While there are many names in the SFSRA publications that I don't know, there are usually several I do. That makes it worthwhile. Thanks.

JIM COVINGTON - Alabama - I would like to thank Glen Beaver for giving me my first subscription to The Dixie Ranger. I retired from the Lands Section of the Supervisor's Office in Montgomery Alabama in 1994. My wife, Beronica, and I live in Prattville along with our daughter, son-in-law and their four children. Our son, his wife and two daughters are Missionaries in China and North Korea. I have been working (part time) as a greeter at BASS PRO since the Prattville store opened in August of 2007. Some of the Forest Service people I have seen at BASS PRO are Art Goddard, Bill Fadden, Bud Johnston, Dale Gentry, Ron Ferris, Alex Boldog, Bill Daugherty, Bruce Parsons, Joy Patty, Don Kight and Gary Taylor. I have enjoyed receiving The Dixie Ranger this past year. I do a little Crappie fishing on the Alabama River and some deer hunting on a hunting club lease. I would very much like to hear from some of you!

BRISCOE (BRIS) PRICE - Louisiana - Just noticed that it is dues paying time again. Will enclose dues for the next three years - maybe that way I can keep up with it better. Ms. Tommye and I are well, and we are really enjoying our time in the "briar patch" (Jena, LA). We enjoy every issue of The Dixie Ranger and keeping up with lots of folks we were fortunate enough to meet and work with over the years. Don't know much about what is going on in today's Forest Service, and that is probably just as well. Have other interests like working on family genealogy (wish I had started that years before I did) and getting a trip or two in each year.

CLARENCE KING - Florida - Here are my dues for the next two years. I enjoy The Dixie Ranger and reading about things that took place over past years. Pat Int-Hout brought back memories about Mack Ewitt, known as Black Mack, and his time spent on Yellow Mountain Lookout Tower. His call number was K11 518. I went there with Eckle Rowlands to help check on radio and make repairs to radio and antenna. No, I would not like to have been in the outhouse when lightning struck.

FRANK FERRARELLI - California - Just realized that I'm delinquent with my dues. I don't want anyone to think I died; just got careless. Being optimistic, I am enclosing dues for three more years; was at the Doctor's yesterday, and she assured me I should be good for that, plus. I don't want to miss out on any news. You guys are doing a great job, keep it up. We're still here in rainy (this year anyway) California, watching after goats and cows and doing various and sundry work pretending to be ranch hands - it keeps us busy and out of trouble. Joyce keeps volunteering me to do repair and building work at our church too - earning points for the hereafter. Reading the various Regional newsletters and info from NAFSR, it looks like the Forest Service is changing from a producing organization (weeds, wecreation, water, wood) to a "care taking" one. I think all my old

jobs from a district engineer to a forest supervisor would not be so much fun anymore - am very glad I was there when I was. Enjoyed every minute of it.

LARRY TREKELL- Texas - Sends a correction to his story in the last newsletter : Fire Dispatcher on the Trinity is Leon Eaves, not Evans.

DAVE STACK, Vice President of The National Museum of Forest Service History wrote to thank SFSRA for the donation to the *Forest Service History Memorial* to honor Jean Paul Kruglewicz. "The Memorial Grove of trees on the museum grounds honors all persons listed on the *Forest Service History Memorial*. The *Forest Service Memorial* program honors people who have contributed to the mission of the Forest Service. The biographies help preserve the history and traditions of the Forest Service. "

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HISTORIANS AND SOCIAL SCIENTISTS To Advise National Museum of Forest Service History

The National Museum of Forest Service History (Museum) Board of Directors announced the establishment of its formal Advisory Panel of Historians and Social Scientists. The group of fourteen nationally recognized authors, researchers and academics will advise in the development and programming of the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center, which will be constructed in Missoula, Montana. "These respected scholars will help ground the Center's interpretive program with their diverse perspectives, depth and knowledge and quality of research," said Gray Reynolds, Museum president. "The public will benefit greatly from their involvement, which will shed new light on the themes presented through the Center's exhibits, traveling exhibits, online presence and educational initiatives."

The advisory panel includes award-winning authors and lecturers whose specialties range from U.S. environmental history, natural resource and public land policy, the history of the American West, tourism in the upper Midwest, the creation of eastern National Forests, Native American history and the history of the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. The fourteen advisory panel members are:

Thomas Glen Alexander, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Brigham Young University
Richmond Clow, Ph.D., Professor of Native American Studies, University of Montana
Mark T. Fiege, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Colorado State University
John Freemuth, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, Cecil D. Andrus Center for Public Policy and Professor of Political Science, Boise State University
Anthony Godfrey, Ph.D., President, U.S. West Research, Inc.
Sara Gregg, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of History, The University of Kansas
Joseph Jones, Ph.D., Independent Research Historian, Houston, Texas
Nancy Langston, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology and Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Char Miller, Ph.D., Director of Environmental Analysis Program; and W.M. Keck Professor, Pomona College
Susan Schrepfer, Ph.D., Professor of History, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Aron Shapiro, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of History, Auburn University
Paul Stutter, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, University of Colorado, Boulder

Museum Board Member **Patricia Limerick**, the Faculty Director and Chair of the Board, Center of the American West and Professor of History at the University of Colorado, will chair the panel. **Lincoln Bramwell**, Chief Historian, U.S. Forest Service, will join the panel as an ex-officio member.

"The history of the US Forest Service is the very history of conservation. We look forward to working with our new advisory panel members to transform the stories, research, and collections into a comprehensive Center that provides a forum for educational and meaningful debate about conservation," said Dave Stack, executive director.

A Thriving Forest

President Clinton spoke eloquently in his October 13, 1999, remarks to a group of "roadless area" enthusiasts, at the Reddish Knob overlook in the George Washington National Forest when he said, "A century ago when Mr. Pinchot was first dreaming up his plan to protect our forests, this vista looked very different than what we see today. In fact, it was more wasteland than forest". He then went on to say, "Nowadays hundreds of thousands of visitors come here every year to hike, swim, bike, fish or just to breathe the fresh air and take in the beautiful sights. The land that once nobody wanted is now a thriving forest everyone can enjoy".

Archaeological Discovery

After digging to a depth of 10 feet last year, New York scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, a California archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet and shortly after, a story in the LA Times read: "California archaeologists, finding of 200 year old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers."

One week later, a local newspaper in Georgia reported the following: "After digging as deep as 30 feet in his pasture near Pine Mountain Valley, Bubba, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Bubba has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Georgia had already gone wireless".

Just makes a person proud to live in Georgia, don't it?

Southern Humor: For those of us who live in the South and this past winter enjoyed the 8th largest ever-recorded snow storm since records have been kept, Kaye Shelton, retiree from the Cherokee National Forest shares this amusing anecdote.

I just got off the phone with a friend in Benton, TN. He said that since early this morning the snow has accumulated to nearly knee high and is still falling. The temperature is dropping below 8 degrees and the north wind is increasing. His wife has done nothing but look through the kitchen window. He says that if it gets much worse, he may have to let her in!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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Changes/Additions are reflected in the new directory.

IN MEMORIAM

Compiled by Elaine & Jim McConnell

Grace Barbara Benson, 68, of Alexandria, Louisiana, passed away on November 10, 2010. Barbara was the wife of Harvey Benson, retired Timber Sales Contracting Administration specialist on the Kisatchie National Forest. She worked as secretary at Alexandria Senior High School for 30 years. Barbara is survived by her husband of 49 years; daughters Ginger (Kevin) Cook of Carthage, Texas and Gayle (Brett) Mann of Woodworth, Louisiana; four grandchildren Kathy and Paul Ray Cook and Victoria and Benjamin Young. She was predeceased by her parents Charles and Ann Muriel Hasty and an infant brother Charles Lee Hasty. Barbara's funeral was held on November 13th at Grace Presbyterian Church in Alexandria. Burial was in Alexandria Memorial Gardens.

Paul J. Grainger, 94, of Mesa, Arizona, passed away Saturday, December 4, 2010. He was born in Rosebud, Montana, the son of the late R. Hugh and Sarah Grainger. He graduated from Miles City, Montana High School in 1934. He served as a V.A. Volunteer at the Tucson VA hospital with over 4,000 hours to his credit. Paul was employed for over 42 years with the Federal government including the CCC, the U.S. Navy during WW II and Korea and for 30 years with the U.S. Forest Service. Paul may have been the last person to hold the position of Director, Division of Budget and Finance, Chiefs Office, U.S. Forest Service and became the first Director of the Division of Fiscal and Accounting Management, the position from which he retired. Paul married his late wife, Jimmie in 1941 in Washington, DC. He is survived by his son Scott Grainger (Barbara); daughter Tina Green; four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and one brother, Donald Grainger. Paul was preceded in death by his wife, one brother and five sisters. Military grave side services were held December 26, 2010, at East Lawn Palms Cemetery in Tucson, Arizona.

Gary Coleman, age 73, of Winchester, Kentucky, passed away from pneumonia and kidney problems on December 23, 2010, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. He was the Lands Staff Officer on the Daniel Boone National Forest from 1984 until he retired. He had worked for the Forest Service in Ohio, Milwaukee, California and Oregon. Gary graduated from Penn State with a degree in forestry, and also served in the Reserves and National Guard. He is survived by his wife, Edna Carter Coleman; one son, Greg Coleman of Austin, Texas; daughter and son-in-law, Deana and John Coddington of Hamilton, Ohio; three sisters, Carole (Bob) Holzinger of Higgins, Pennsylvania, Marcelle (Terry) Stiely of Klingerstown, Pennsylvania, and Linda (Carl) Zimmerman of Higgins, Pennsylvania. Gary's memorial service was held on December 28, 2010, at the First Presbyterian Church in Winchester. He was cremated and his ashes were spread over the Red River Gorge.

Howard Burnett, 79, passed away on December 27, 2010, just 6 days before his 80th birthday. He graduated from Syracuse University in New York with an advanced degree in forestry and worked for the Forest Service for 32 years serving on national forests in Mississippi, Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. He also served in State and Private Forestry in the Southeastern area, Northeastern area and in Washington, DC. After retirement, Howard remained active in forestry serving as the "Tree Doctor" answering questions submitted in the American Forests organization for 20 years and as a member of the Dalton Tree Advisory Board. Howard is survived by Martha Sue, his wife of 51 years; daughter and son-in-law Charlene and Bruce Hesselbacher; sons and daughter in-laws Alex and Vicki Burnett and David and Lynn Burnett; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Holly Creek Baptist Church in Chatsworth, Georgia.

Mary Electra Estes Farr, 92, of Union, South Carolina, passed away on January 1, 2011, at Newberry County Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Farr was retired from the U.S. Forest Service, Tyger River District, Union, South Carolina and was formerly Union County Deputy Clerk of Court. She was the widow of Ralph Edward Farr, Sr. She is survived by a son Edward Farr (June) of Prosperity, South Carolina; a daughter, Rebecca Farr Stone of Ludington, Michigan; four grandchildren: Rock Stone (Jennifer) of Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina; Chris Farr (Brynley) of Chapin, South Carolina; Andy Farr of Union, South Carolina; and Cameron Farr of Prosperity, South Carolina; and two great-grandchildren Luke and Banks Stone. Graveside services were held at Grace United Methodist Church Cemetery in Union on January 3, 2011.

Leslee Carla Curran, 71, wife of retired Ouachita Forest Supervisor Mike Curran, passed away January 23, 2011. She was born in King City, California, to Leslie Joseph and Genevieve Eade. Leslee had a long struggle with her health. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, John Mike Curran of Hot Springs, Arkansas; sons, Kevin (Barbara) Curran of Lake Forest, California; Timothy (Gail) Curran of Hot Springs and Daughter Kendrea (Pete) Stoessel of Ashburn, Virginia; grandchildren, Brittney and Corey Curran, Jordyn and Charlotte Stoessel and the triplets Hunter, Jarrett and Quinn Curran; also, two sisters Donna Palmer and Diane Hanson. A memorial service was held on January 26th in Hot Springs.

Alice Louise Sabin, 81, of Tucker, GA passed away on February 15, 2011. She was born in Pulaski, New York on August 30, 1929. Alice was married to retired Deputy Regional Forester James S. Sabin for 62 years. Alice was an avid gardener and bird watcher. She was a member of the Tucker Garden Club and the Tucker Women's Club and enjoyed crafts and genealogy. Alice is survived by her husband Jim; sons Robert Michael and James Sabin; daughter Deborah Brookins; grandchildren Nicole, Adam, Alison, Jarrad and Melissa Sabin, Alicia Buchanan and seven great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held on Sunday, February 27th at Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church in Tucker.

William J. "Bill" Bryan, 85, passed away peacefully in his sleep on March 3, 2011. Several months ago he had moved from his home in Stone Mt., GA into an elder care facility in Marietta, GA. Bill fought in World War II and, as a young man of 19, landed on a small island known as Iwo Jima. He was a decorated WW II veteran. After graduating from the School of Forestry at Colorado A&M, Bill had a 30-year career with the Forest Service including service in Colorado, Arkansas, Alabama, North Carolina, Utah and the Southeastern Regional Office in Atlanta, GA, where he retired in 1981. He is survived by Bobbie his wife of 64 years; sons Bill Bryan of Peachtree City, GA; Bob (Felicia) Bryan of Washington, DC; Brad (Mary) Bryan of Maynardville, TN; six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; sister Geneva (Dave) McConaughy of Albuquerque, NM; and his brother George (Charleen) Bryan of Apache Junction, AZ. He was preceded in death by his parents and a son Bruce Bryan. A service of remembrance was held at the Stone Mountain First United Methodist Church on March 31, 2011. William J. Bryan was a loving husband, a devoted father, a wonderful grandfather, a great person to work with and a friend to all who knew him.

Betty Wells, 75, passed away on January 13, 2009. She worked as a clerk typist and in Budget & Finance in the Supervisor's Office in Alabama from February 1968, until she retired in September 1989. She is survived by Robert Wells her husband of 56 years; daughters Sara Annette McNutt and Carol Pierce (Kelly); grandchildren Jennifer Wallace (Billy), Michael McNutt, Ryan (Christie) McNutt, Chris Pierce and Scott McNutt; great-grandchildren Savannah and Caleb Wallace; and brother William G. Baker, Jr. Betty's funeral service was held on Jan. 16, 2009, at St John's

Episcopal Church with burial at Forestlawn Gardens Cemetery in Anniston, Alabama. She will be remembered by Forest Service retirees who worked in Alabama.

Herta Elizabeth Fox, 85, a native of Austria and a citizen of the United States since 1952 died October 28, 2010, after several months of critical health problems. Elizabeth was married to Forest Service retiree Walt Fox of Martin, Georgia, who survives her. Walt said they were married for 8 wonderful years and traveled extensively including three visits to Austria and many trips throughout the United States.

Training Center Named in Memory of Former SFSRA Member Stan Adams

In October, the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources honored former state forester and North Carolina State University Forestry and Environmental Resources alumnus Stan Adams by dedicating a training center in his memory at Jordan Lake Educational State Forest. "It is an honor and privilege to celebrate and recognize Stan for his wonderful leadership and accomplishments within the North Carolina Forest Service," said Wib Owen, the current state forester. Stan died December 10, 2009 after a long illness. Prior to leading the state forestry agency, Stan spent 34 years with the U.S. Forest Service and served as a forester, district ranger, job corps director and forest supervisor during that span. He retired as Director Office of Information in the Regional Office in Atlanta in 1991 and as North Carolina State Forester in 2006. In total his forestry career lasted more than 49 years.

SFSRA member Bob Daley from Hot Springs, Arkansas, Recognized by "The Caring Place"

Excerpts from the Hot Springs Sentinel-Record, December 19, 2010

Bob Daley, member of the board and volunteer for "The Caring Place" is recognized as chief diplomat for human relations. Santa Claus, a columnist for the Sentinel-Record, believes that men and women who unobtrusively do good works throughout the year are worthy of recognition. A native of Missouri, Bob moved to Arkansas when he transferred to the University of Arkansas where he met and married his wife Peggy and they have been helpmates now for almost 50 years, both dedicated to being good citizens, thoughtful friends and neighbors. Bob began his professional career with the U.S. Forest Service in Amarillo, Texas. From there he moved to Tres Piedras, New Mexico, Phoenix, Arizona, Alamogordo, New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Santa Fe, New Mexico and in 1976 to Hot Springs where he became the administrative officer for the Ouachita National Forest. Shortly after retiring from the Forest Service in 2000, Bob became actively involved with "The Caring Place", an adult day care program for persons with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. Bob and fellow volunteers—in a safe, hospitable environment and through various games, exercises and conversations—provide participants with much needed socialization and mental stimulation. True compassion can do so much to uplift someone who is struggling. Kindness in the form of a smile, a gentle word, a pat on the arm can make a difference in how recipients of these gestures view their world. The daycare program also gives caregivers a respite from their daily responsibilities. Lynn Reeves, director of The Caring Place, says of Bob, "One word to describe him is selfless. He is dedicated to our program in every way. Even during times of serious health issues, Bob continued to volunteer." Hot Springs is a better place because of Bob's faithful service.

A clear conscience is usually a sign of a bad memory.

Source unknown

THE COWEETA HYDROLOGIC LABORATORY ANOTHER WEEKS ACT SUCCESS STORY

Another benefit flowing from the Weeks Act was the establishment of several Forest Service research sites. An example is the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory in Otto, North Carolina. The Coweeta Lab was established as the Coweeta Experimental Forest in 1934, on lands the Forest Service acquired under the Weeks Act in 1918 as part of what was to become the Nantahala National Forest. The 5600 acre site encompasses a complete watershed with several sub basins, which provide a controlled environment for, among other things, a wide range of studies, of watershed and vegetative responses to a great variety of change agents, such as: water yield studies in the early 1940s indicating that clearcutting within a watershed increased the amount of water coming off a watershed. Studies also addressed watershed yields by aspect, species composition, and other types of vegetation. The nature and extent of watershed damage resulting from grazing and planting a variety of agricultural crops on Appalachian hillsides were addressed, along with the development of best management practices for forestry and associated road building activities.

There were studies that identified: the impact of timber harvesting on vegetation diversity and the nutrient cycling processes; the effects of atmospheric chemicals on forests and continuous forest study of acid rain in the eastern United States; the effects of prescribed burning in mountain ecosystems; the effect of nonnative insects and diseases on forest ecosystems; and climate monitoring data starting in 1934.

Important philosophical question update – “Why did the chicken cross the road?”

SARAH PALIN: “The chicken crossed the road because gosh-darn it, he’s a maverick!”

BARACK OBAMA: “The chicken crossed the road because it was time for change! The chicken wanted change!”

JOHN MCCAIN: “My friends that chicken crossed the road because he recognized the need to engage in cooperation and dialogue with all the chickens on the other side of the road.”

HILLARY CLINTON: “When I was First Lady, I personally helped that little chicken to cross the road. This experience makes me uniquely qualified to ensure right from Day One that every chicken in this country gets the chance it deserves to cross the road. But then, this really isn’t about me.”

GEORGE W. BUSH: “We don’t really care why the chicken crossed the road. We just want to know if the chicken is on our side of the road, or not. The chicken is either against us, or for us. There is no middle ground here.”

DICK CHENEY: “Where’s my gun?”

BILL CLINTON: “I did not cross the road with that chicken.”

AL GORE: “I invented the chicken.”

AL SHARPTON: “Why are all the chickens white? We need some black chickens.”

PAT BUCHANAN: “To steal the job of a decent, hardworking American.”

DR SEUSS: “Did the chicken cross the road? Did he cross it with a toad? Yes, the chicken crossed the road, but why it crossed I’ve not been told.”

GRANDPA: “In my day we didn’t ask why the chicken crossed the road. Somebody told us the chicken crossed the road, and that was good enough.”

ALBERT EINSTEIN: “Did the chicken really cross the road, or did the road move beneath the chicken?”

COLONEL SANDERS: “Did I miss one?”

Submitted by O. D. Smith

SFSRA Financial Statement as of December 31, 2010

Submitted by Tom Tibbs, Treasurer

Assets

Transferred from State Farm Bank	\$9,610.58	
Total transferred from State Farm Bank		\$9,610.58
Petty Cash	\$ 8.00	
Dues Received (2010)	\$3,880.00	
Total Cash Deposits		\$3,888.00
Less Certificates of Deposit		-\$4,500.00
Total Cash		\$8,998.58
Certificates of Deposit	\$4,500.00	
Total CDs on Deposit at Bank of Marion	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Total Assets (Cash Deposits + CD's)	\$13,498.58	\$13,408.58

Expenses

Dixie Ranger:		
Service Printing	\$2,136.91	
Postage for Dixie Ranger March (Peggy Jolly)	\$199.86	
Luncheon Expenses	\$243.12	
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$70.29	
2010 Donations and Memberships		
Forest History Society	\$250.00	
National Museum of FS History	\$500.00	
Total 2010 Expenses	\$3,400.18	\$ 3,400.18

Balance 2010 \$10,098.40

Bank Statement Reconciliation

Bank Checking Statement Balance (12/31/2010)	\$ 5,598.40
Certificate of Deposits	\$ 4,500.00

Total Bank of Marion Checking + CD Accounts \$10,098.40

Difference \$0.00

If you do not plan to use this form for your own personal use - dues or changes - please pass it on to a prospective Southern Forest Service Retirees Association member.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR EXTENSION
Southern Forest Service Retirees Association

Date: _____

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ Apt.#: _____

City / State: _____ Nine-Digit ZipCode: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Retired From: _____

Membership Dues (\$10 per year) - Amount Enclosed: _____

Membership in the SFSRA includes:

Three issues per year of *The Dixie Ranger*, issued in March, July and November

Membership Directory, issued in March every year

The opportunity to become published as an author when articles are written for
The Dixie Ranger

The most economical way to stay in touch with friends and co-workers

Notification of what's happening in the Forest Service

Current e-mail notification of Atlanta and nearby areas events/activities/deaths, etc.

Mail completed application with payment to:

Tom Tibbs
627 Oak Lane
Marion, VA 24354

Southern Forest Service
Retirees Association
128 Wind Trace
Alexander City AL 35010-8772

Prst Std
Postage Paid
Permit #30
Alexander City AL

REMINDER – On your mailing label area, the number following your name is the year through which your dues are paid - therefore, if you have 2010, or earlier, you owe dues!

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