



# THE DIXIE RANGER

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## President's Corner:

*"When you try to change any single thing you find it hitched to everything else in the universe." John Muir*

We had the opportunity this past July to take our kids and grandkids on an Alaskan cruise. Jeanette and I had been before and thought it was a good way to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We knew that the kids and grandkids would enjoy it and we would enjoy the time the 14 of us could be together. With grandkids in elementary school, high school, and college and located in Georgia, Virginia, and Florida, this might be the last opportunity for this to happen before they really scatter and get involved in their own lives. Each had their own thing they were looking forward to the most. One wanted the excursion with the sled dogs; the 10-year old girl wanted to dress for the formal nights; the 7-year-old boy and his father wanted to ride the train in Skagway. Jeanette and I just enjoyed the majesty and beauty of Alaska. She remarked that this was the way she envisioned God made the earth. I thought about the people I worked with that devoted their life to maintaining and protecting such a beautiful piece of our country so that it could be enjoyed by many generations. If you haven't made this trip, put it on your bucket list. You will be glad you did.

*"A grandchild fills a space in your heart that you never knew was empty."  
Author Unknown.*

While my 7-year-old grandson was visiting us this summer, he was in my office looking at all the "stuff" on the bookshelves. He said "Granddad, you have a lot of good golf books." (His latest fascination is playing golf.) I told him that most of them had been given to me and I had read some of them, but they didn't seem to help my golf game. He said "You know, in about a hundred years when you're gone and I'm not and we are in here picking out what we want, I am going to get the golf books." The amusing thing about this is that there are many things in the office you would expect a 7-year-old to be impressed with rather than a book. There are many golf balls (including one from The White House), a model 1961 Chevrolet Impala convertible, a large model sailing ship that is probably 85 years old, etc. I thought about the Art Linkletter T.V. show of the 1950's in which he had a segment, Kids Say the Darndest Things.

Sometimes the golden years are a hassle, especially the trips to the doctor's office or the pills we take every day. But, God gave us grandkids to make the good times greatly outweigh the not-so-good ones.

The holiday season is almost upon us. I have often heard that Christmas is a time for kids. I guess that is why they say I am in my second childhood, because I enjoy it as much now as when I was a little kid. Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to each of you!

*Sid Haggard*, President

## Letter from the Regional Forester

Like many of you, I've dedicated more than 30 years to a stellar cause – making our national forests the best they can be. And as you did in your career, similarly, I love what I do. And I admire the people who I work with every day and the way they continually accomplish their goals, season after season.

Good people work for the Forest Service. No, great people. In our line of work, today, it takes more than a spring in your step and a fondness of forestry or conservation to succeed. It's no secret that new challenges continue to knock at our portals. And every day we respond. The employees of the Southern Region exemplify caring for the land and serving people.

We have great people who are using business metrics, analyzing trends, watching out for each other, and making improvements that affect the future of our forests. Like when Region 8 successfully competed for two Collaborative Landscape Forest Restoration (CLFR) projects.

Our goals today are very similar to goals in years past. We're still eradicating invasive plants and battling pests, like today's Southern Pine Beetle. We're still harvesting timber, providing more than 520 million board feet, the second highest regional contribution nationally. These treatments and our controlled burns continue to reduce the risk of future catastrophic wildfires and restore the health of our forests.

In FY 2012, we safely responded to more than 850 wildfires across the South and once again we exceeded our treated-acres goal to reduce wildfire risk, by hitting 117 percent of our target. We also sold more timber than our target amount, including drought-related salvages in Texas and beetle-related salvages in Mississippi.

Region 8 is ripe with projects and potential. We have a workforce of 2,951 employees; and on top of that we build agreements, co-ops, competitive grants, collaborative projects, stewardship agreements, and partnership strategies. We're not in this game alone. Forests cross boundaries from public land to private land. Likewise, beetle infestations, invasive plants, and forest management issues are oblivious to ownership lines. Most of our new projects are launching on a landscape scale, involving other groups of people and multiple landowners.

With more than 13 million acres of land in 13 states plus Puerto Rico, our role as stewards of the land is more important than ever. In recent months we've seen an increase in general awareness about hydraulic fracturing, which has translated into more conversations and meetings about oil and natural gas leasing. The multiple-use policy of our national forests has been in place for decades, and use of the oil and gas resources beneath the surface of the land is of constant interest to Americans at many levels of society. As land managers, we continue to safeguard the environment as we allow multiple uses of resources on a case-by-case basis. We also initiate discussions with people who live in adjacent communities, who are concerned about these issues.

Proactively, we continue to work on landscape restorations that have broad-reaching benefits for species, animal habitat, and our changing climate. We can all celebrate recent reports about the re-emergence of longleaf pine in the South. The result shows an 8 percent gain in established longleaf forests in Region 8 where the Forest Service has led restoration efforts for years. We are

slowly but effectively reversing a decades-long decline in the longleaf population through our partnership efforts. We restore longleaf pine on NFS land; we offer grants to state and private lands for longleaf improvement activities; and in 2012 we shepherded the first year of \$3 million in grants through the inaugural Longleaf Stewardship Fund, which leverages public and private funding to invest pooled funds in the most strategic way to restore longleaf pine across its native landscape in the South.

Also, on the Ouachita National Forest we have out-planted Eastern Hemlock in the western reaches of its range in Arkansas in anticipation of species loss from the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid disease and changes in the climate.

By the close of fiscal year 2012 when the numbers were tallied, we excelled across the board on our mission-related goals: exceeding the targeted number of watersheds moved into an improved condition class, claiming more acres (28,256) under stewardship contracts than any other region, exceeding our target for timber volume sold, exceeding target acres for longleaf restoration, implementing new Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration projects, surpassing the 1000-acres-treated mark in the Southern Pine Beetle prevention program, and more than one million acres treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

I am proud to stand beside Forest Service colleagues who realize the workforce gets smaller with attrition, the federal funding changes each year in ways that makes us analyze how we operate, yet we push forward together and find innovative solutions. And we meet our targets and exceed our goals.

*Liz Appaou*, Regional Forester

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> — CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON MEETING

It's time to make your reservations for our annual December luncheon! This is always a very festive event and a fun way to stay in touch with our fellow retirees. Members and guests will gather in Atlanta at the Petite Auberge Restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center, 2935 North Druid Hills Road, at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. The cost of the meal is \$13 per person. Reservations are necessary **by December 3<sup>rd</sup>** and can be made by calling 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 because we are charged** for the number of reservations turned in the day before the luncheon.

Our speaker will be Douglas W. MacCleery, author of "American Forests, A History of Resiliency and Recovery" which is available as a publication of the Forest History Society Issues Series. Doug recently retired as the Senior Policy Analyst for the Forest and Rangelands Management Staff in the Washington Office. He is an excellent speaker and will provide a unique perspective on the past importance of wood to our developing nation and how that resource has recovered significantly, especially in the East and South. We will also have the always popular drawing for door prizes which is a big hit at each of our meetings.

## R-8 RETIREES GET TOGETHER

**Northeast Atlanta** - Retirees are now meeting for breakfast the last Tuesday of each month (except December) at the IHOP Restaurant, 4205 Stone Mountain Highway, Hwy 78, at 7:30 a.m. 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 the Kennesaw Whistle Stop Cafe, 1200 Earnest Barrett Parkway, Suite #10, Kennesaw, Georgia 30144. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. 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, Tennessee, 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 a.m. for breakfast at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in the Cornerstone Shopping Center, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

**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 several 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 a.m. 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 a.m. 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](mailto:georgelynch@verizon.net). His phone is (828) 369-9722.

**Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests** - Glenda Wood reports: Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests retirees held their fall meeting/luncheon on October 10th at the Ocean View Seafood Restaurant in Columbia, South Carolina. Meeting time was 11:30 a.m. to allow time for socializing prior to lunch at noon. Retirees and spouses present included: Ron & Catherine Boozer, Phyllis Burnette, Doris & Jim Daniel, Jean Eng, Diane & Alvin Feltman, Ed Hedgecock, Mary & Bill Holton, Katie Jackson, LeRoy Lewis, James Marshall, Colette Phillips, Dave Rosdahl, Norman & Roselyn Runge, and Jim & Vicki Scott.

Those who sent regrets for being unable to attend:

-- Bill & Lynda Hansen (not retirees, but sometimes attend meetings): He and Linda would be in Texas for Lynda's mother's memorial service. Bill further stated: "Lynda and I miss them (retirees) and I am currently cancer free, but continuing regular cancer tests..."

-- Paul & Carolyn Myers were in New England visiting family.

-- Bobby Harrell, retiree from the Enoree Ranger District: Family and friends surprised Bobby with a birthday celebration of his 60th birthday, on September 8th in Walterboro, near his hometown of Yemassee, South Carolina. There were approximately 70 guests in attendance from locations as far away as Maine. Bobby's mother, Duna, continues to be an active member of FM&S retirees.

-- Paul Bradley: "In case you have not heard, I will be a retiree by Wednesday, October 10th. Last month I announced my retirement as of September 28. It was my intention to join you as a retiree in October, but we sold our house in ten days so my wife, Barbara, and I will be returning to northwest Georgia to live in my family's lake house and assist in caring for my 92-year-old father. I have enjoyed my time here in South Carolina and on the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests, especially working with and getting to know such a wonderful group of folks, current and retired, who are so dedicated to the restoring and sustaining the precious resource we tend for our nation. With best regards for you all. Paul Bradley was the Forest Supervisor of the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests

-- John Cathey: "Sorry Bernice and I will not be able to attend. I have a doctor's appointment that day. I had colon cancer surgery on 9/23 and I have a follow-up visit on this day. I'm doing ok and just can't do a lot of moving and travel, report was good and seems the cancer had not spread. Tell everyone hello and we hope to see them in the spring. Those who wish to send John a card, please mail to: 1009 Saddle Hill Road - Greenwood, SC 29646.

-- Carol Forney (newest retiree): "Thanks for the invite. My daughter is expecting and due this week so I will not be able to attend. Please keep me informed on next one. Thanks again and enjoy."

The spring meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2013. Decisions will be made at a later date regarding a meeting place. If you're traveling in our area and decide you're able to join us, please come - with or without reservations. For further details, please contact either Vicki Scott (803) 364-2504 or e-mail [cyberfogie@aol.com](mailto:cyberfogie@aol.com) or Glenda Wood (864) 445-4751 (leave message if not home) or e-mail [tanner2010@centurylink.net](mailto:tanner2010@centurylink.net).

### **Southeastern Forest Service Retirees Enjoyed the "Rendezvous in the Rockies" Reunion**

Among some 650 Forest Service retirees and spouses attending the National Reunion in Vail, Colorado, were several from Region 8, along with many who at sometime in their careers worked in the Southern Region. Among those SFSRA members attending were: Jerry and Fern Coutant, Tom and Ann Tibbs, Anne Jones and her daughter Barbara, Dave and Peggy Jolly, Keith Argo,

Richard Fitzgerald, Malcolm and Mary Gramley, Hamilton and Mary Ellen Johnson, Jack and Marcia Reichert, Dick and Lone Wengert, Regional Forester Liz Agpaoa and former Regional Forester in Region 8 and Chief Emeritus of the Forest Service Max and Jan Peterson, .

Rocky Mountain Region retirees did a superb job with every detail to provide five days of breakfasts and banquets, receptions and meetings, presentations and panels, silent auction and store, exhibits, field trips and lots of time for visiting with old friends. Vail, Colorado was a beautiful setting, the golden Aspen were a spectacular addition to the scenery.

Some highlights of the week were Tuesday's opening ceremony "Welcome to the Rocky Mountain Region" film and the presentation of the colors by members of the legendary 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, infantry skiers from WWII who had trained at Camp Hale near Vail. Chief Tidwell delivered his "State of the Forest Service" address in which he said the state of the Forest Service is "great". The Forest Service is emphasizing ecosystem restoration, responding to the growing threat of wildland fire, developing stronger relationships with communities, putting safety first and working toward a stronger and more diverse workforce with more "bench strength".

Following Chief Tidwell, Professor Patty Limerick, Director of the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado spoke with words of wit and wisdom in her "Tradition and Change in the Forest Service: Reflections of an Armchair Quarterback and Grateful Citizen" keynote address. She challenged the Forest Service to look to its traditions as it looks to its future. Memorable from her message were, "If you have identified a problem, stop whining about it and do something." And, "When shifting paradigms, it is important to put in the clutch." Also, she passed on this timely quote from Gifford Pinchot, "It is a greater thing to be a good citizen than to be a good Republican or a good Democrat."

Wednesday was field trip day followed by a "Top of the Mountain" barbeque which was also attended by President Theodore Roosevelt (alias Joe Wiegand of Sewanee, Tennessee, professional portrayer of the president) who regaled the diners from his bully pulpit. Other entertainment included the Fiddlin' Foresters and cowboy poet, Doc Mehl.

Thursday began with "The Chief's Campfire" - which was extremely entertaining - a panel of former Chiefs of the Forest Service including Max Peterson, Dale Robertson, and Jack Ward Thomas along with Mike Dombeck, Dale Bosworth, and Gail Kimbell - moderated by President Theodore Roosevelt who also introduced the Young Leaders Panel of six of today's young Forest Service leaders: Beatra Wilson, WO State & Private Forestry; Chris Fetting, entomologist, PSW; Terry Baker, District Ranger, Willamette National Forest; Eric Pfeifer, Forester, Salmon-Challis National Forest; Matthew McCombs, Deputy District Ranger, White River National Forest; and Erica Banegas, Director of Audit and Assurance in Albuquerque. Deputy Chief for the National Forest System, Leslie Weldon moderated this panel of young leaders who expressed their careers and viewpoints on the agency's future. After Thursday night's banquet, the Fiddlin' Foresters entertained with their farewell performance as a Forest Service "official old-time string band" in support of the "outfit" and its mission. Their rousing rendition of "Smokey the Bear" was a big hit.

At Friday morning's breakfast Amigo Lou Romero from the Southwest Region announced the next Forest Service National Reunion, "**Rally on the Rio**", will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the week of October 12 to 16, 2015.

Editors

**SFSRA Member Richard Fitzgerald Honored** - On August 6, Chief Tidwell and the Executive Leadership Team honored approximately 190 Washington Office employees with public service from five to 55 years for their legacy of service at the annual award ceremony in Washington. One special employee, Richard "Fitz" Fitzgerald, Assistant Director Forest Management, received a standing ovation for his 55 years of federal service along with a congratulatory letter from Secretary Vilsack. "Fitz" is a member of our Southern Forest Service Retirees Association.

## LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

**BOBBY KITCHENS** - Alabama - We are fine, enjoying life and staying busy. I went to a fire with the Southern Red Team at Ft. Davis, Texas, in May and helped teach at a Local Fire Management Leadership Course in Jacksonville, Florida, in June and also mobilized with Northern Rockies Team to New Mexico in June. The Team did not get a fire, but I was asked to go on down to Ruidoso and assist the District Ranger with his expanded workload due to a fire there that burned about 250 structures. Ironically, my subject at Jacksonville was about Agency Administrator responsibilities, duties, and practices during a large wildfire so I got to help with what I had just taught. It is heating up in the Northern Rockies and maybe we'll get a call there before long. Turman's Northern Rockies Type 1 Team hasn't had a fire in their home territory since 2007, I believe, so it's about time.

**JOE BENNETT** - North Carolina - Many thanks to each of you who provide us with *The Dixie Ranger*. Great job!

**ROY STALNAKER** - West Virginia - I recently retired again, this time from Huntington Mortgage Group where I worked 21 years as a loan officer. Now I'm doing all the things I never had time for plus what Margaret wants me to do!

**SANDRA AHERN** - Georgia - Thanks for *The Dixie Ranger*. Enclosed is my check for three more years. Does anyone know where or what of **E. E. Stone**?

**NORMAN ALLEY** - Arkansas - Enclosed is my check for \$50 for our Dixie Ranger dues for the next five years. Thanks for all your time and efforts in making *The Dixie Ranger* an interesting publication,

**BOBBIE TEMPLETON** - Thanks for not charging a late fee! Sorry I have been late with my dues payment. This check should catch me up to 2013. I really enjoy *The Dixie Ranger*. Keep up the good work.

**JERRY MARSH** - North Carolina - Just a note to say thanks for all you and our other officers do to help us old folks stay in touch with old Forest Service Friends. Here is my check for an additional three years membership. Also a special thanks to Dave & Peggy Jolly for their years with *The Dixie Ranger*.

**BEN STANSEL** - Tennessee - Here are dues for three more years...through 2015. I have a granddaughter starting college at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City. Also a grandson going to "The Citadel" in South Carolina on scholarships. We are proud of them.

Annette and I get together with Charlie and Mary Huppuch each year. As time marches on, we cherish our Forest Service friends. Still enjoying *The Dixie Ranger*.

**BRUCE COURTRIGHT** - California - Here is payment for a few more years. Sorry to be late. Really busy working on project to revitalize the national forests.

**BILL KANE** - Georgia - Here are our dues for three more years. Thanks for the work you all do to keep the retirees informed. Pat took the first "USFS employee buyout" in the 90's and Bill retired over five years ago. The time has gone by fast! We look forward to *The Dixie Ranger* issues.

**LYNN NEFF** - Alabama - I'm one of your 56 members that's "one year behind". Your friendly reminder sure sounds better than "deadbeat". Enclosed are back, present and future dues. Mike Dawson eloquently thanks the Jollys – they have done a great job. One, or both, of the Mikes would make a good editor.

**IRENE NITZ** - Arkansas - I think with the enclosed check for my subscription to *The Dixie Ranger* I will be caught up until the end of this year. I recall how much Joel always enjoyed reading this newsletter, and how he enjoyed making contributions from time to time as he recalled some of his experiences with the Forest Service. I can still hear him chuckling over some of the clever recollections written by his peers. Thanks and admiration to those responsible for getting *The Dixie Ranger* out on time to those who await and appreciate the efforts. God bless all of you!

**MARVIN MEIER** - Wisconsin - Things are going well here. Appreciate the work of the editors and others. Difficult to comprehend how long its been since I retired and we moved back to Wisconsin in June 1994.

**HARRY SWITZER** - Tennessee - My newsletter label says I owe for 2012. Here is my check for \$30 which should cover my dues through 2014. Sorry I'm late. I really enjoy the newsletter, and so does my wife. All involved are doing a great job.

**DON HUGHES** - Alabama - This should keep *The Dixie Ranger* coming. Bobbie and I are still hanging in there. I just had my 85<sup>th</sup> the other day and we feel so fortunate for the good health we have, especially for our age. We still travel by motor home but not as much as before. Couple of good tours with Grand Circle Tours....three weeks in China a year ago and last one was to the Balkan countries, "Budapest to the Black Sea", a river boat cruise on the lower Danube. Always enjoy reading *The Dixie Ranger* although there seems to be fewer folks we know...wonder why?

**ERNEST WALLACE** - Alabama - Please add two more years to my subscription to *The Dixie Ranger*. I enjoy the publication very much. Thanks.

**GLENN McCONNELL** - North Carolina - Here are my dues for the SFSRA for the next 3 years. I really appreciate all the work that goes into the newsletter. It is a great help in keeping up with friends and co-workers who have moved on to retirement. Linda and I are still in Charlotte, NC and enjoying being close to the grandchildren. Linda is still teaching piano and I have been into wood turning for the last 3 years. I always said that I liked "making little pieces of wood out of big pieces of wood". Perhaps that was why I enjoyed working with the timber program so much during my Forest Service career. Thanks to all who contribute to *The Dixie Ranger*. It is a great READ.



**DAVID DUBOW** - Georgia - Enclosed is check that should take me through 2014. Thanks.

**DON ASHWORTH** - Georgia - Apparently we are at least two years behind with our dues, so to keep from being dumped here is our payment for 2011, 2012 and 2013. Peggy got so tickled at the article on the Conspiracy Theory that she almost fell out of her chair. She tried to read it to me, but kept breaking up. When a publication has that much humor in it we old folks need to latch onto it. Old age is a real pain in the butt. Everything seems to leak, dry up or hurt and we can't understand why. Of course a quick look in the mirror and we get the message. Keep up the good work. As more people retire we become farther and farther behind in regards to who they are and what areas each served. *The Dixie Ranger* helps us feel like we are still part of the family even with new guys and gals joining us. Just as I was about to finish this note, Peggy again became controlled by laughter as she read the Bricklayers story.

While we were stationed on the Jefferson National Forest back in the early 70's, I was the Watershed Specialist. The Mount Rogers area had just been designated a National Preserve (or whatever it was called). Malcom Edwards was the Wildlife Specialist, Charlie Blankenship was on the staff, Brad Emory was my boss and Ralph Moyles was the Forest Supervisor. The Federal highway 71 tunnel was under construction and I had a real tough time trying getting the highway engineers to protect the trout streams. The Marion Ranger District was my favorite district on the forest. Lots of water has passed under the bridge since our work there. Those are referred to as the "good old days" and truly they were special years.

**BILL HESS** - Georgia - Here are dues for two more years. Thanks for all of your work.

**HORACE LANDRITH** - South Carolina - Here are my dues. Sorry I am tardy. Thanks for *The Dixie Ranger*, a wonderful publication. The Forest Service has been a great organization that did a magnificent job of managing the national forests. I wonder if that is true anymore. I began my career in R-6, Oregon, marking timber on snow shoes. My legs were so sore at night it was hard to sleep. Average timber ran 100,000 MBF per acre with 40% cull. By the way, I don't hear the word timber much anymore when folks speak of the national forest programs. I call that the "T" word.

My fondest memories are of the people I worked with. Limited space will permit me to only mention a few. I helped open the Cass Job Corps in 1965. Ron Strauss was center director and Charles Young was program officer. They ran a real tight ship. Their philosophy was it is easier to loosen up if you are too tight than to tighten up later. This worked well. Bill Walker was my Ranger in Alabama. Bill would visit the work crew from time to time and no matter what they were doing he would join in by taking someone's tool and start to work, for only a little while, but it endeared him to the workers.

I moved into Lands in 1969 and then to the Regional Office in 1971. Now here I met some real characters. First was Jack Kirby who is now deceased. Jack was a great guy, but he had a knack for rubbing people the wrong way on first impression. I worked for Jack in land claims. He always wore black gabardine pants, white short-sleeve shirt, and black bow tie with grey swede shoes. Always the same, just like Winn Dixie store managers. He never rode the elevator up the 7 flights of stairs, and he walked up Stone Mtn with a backpack full of rocks on the weekend.

Next we have Phil Etchison. He was the man that ran the acquisition shop. I visited the Regional Office after moving away and Phil asked me if I wanted to go to lunch with him. We went across the street, picked up a sandwich and something to drink and started to walk. I thought he was looking for a picnic table, but we walked the whole lunch break, eating while we walked. I had heard of grabbing a bite to eat on the run, but this was the ultimate eat and run. Phil would sit at his desk looking over an appraisal and twist his hair around his finger all day which gave him a somewhat disheveled look on occasion.

Then we had Ralph Morgan. Ralph, now deceased, was a Realty Specialist from Lufkin, Texas. I still have a letter he wrote to me in 1984 with the return address of 2 Bar 2 Ranch, Huntington, Texas. He could get Washington Office approval on appraisals where other Regions could not. His philosophy was you can get more flies with honey than vinegar. He always carried a \$100 bill and when people came in from the WO he would offer to buy them a cup of coffee at IHOP across the street. Coffee was only 5 cents a cup then and he would pull out the large bill which no one could or would change and his friends would always say, "Let me get this". So Ralph got a lot of free coffee.

Jack Welsh was in charge of land exchanges; but, before he came to the RO, he did what was undoubtedly the most unique and unusual real estate appraisal ever done or ever will be done in the Forest Service. He appraised the real estate for the acquisition of the Blanchard Caverns on the Ozark National Forest. I don't know where he found comparables for the caves. I remember Odum McDaniel on his first day in the RO saying things were nice but he didn't want to stay here that long. We told him people across town in the Atlanta Federal Prison felt the same way and he could be here a long time before he was paroled. I worked on the Cherokee where one of my main responsibilities was to acquire R.O.W. for the Appalachian Trail. Lots of unwilling sellers here, so this was not one of the most fun jobs, but I still enjoyed it.

I love real estate appraisal. I was Lands Staff on two forests, the Ouachita and the Cherokee. As a Staff, I did a lot of field work doing appraisals, timber cruises, etc... The Ouachita was, and probably still is, one of the best National Forests in R8. One of my best friends, Tony Verucchi worked on rights-of-ways. He was the same yesterday, today and hopefully tomorrow. The Forest Service was undoubtedly the most conservative system in the Federal Government. They wouldn't buy us 4-wheel-drive vehicles, said they cost too much to maintain. I built a lot of corduroy roads on the snow in Oregon because of this. As they say, except for civil rights, air conditioning and medicine those were truly good old days.

### IN MEMORIAM

**Jeanette Courtenay**, 91, born in Greenport, New York on June 13, 1921, died Friday, August 10, 2012, in Lufkin, Texas. She was the wife of John Courtenay, retired Forest Supervisor of the National Forests & Grasslands in Texas. She enjoyed volunteering at Memorial Hospital since 1980 and being with John as they traveled around during his Forest Service career. Jeanette is survived by John her husband of 66 years; daughters Barbara Olds and husband Rick of Natchitoches, LA; Mary Smith and husband Roy of Ft. Lupton, CO; and son Jack Courtenay and wife Carol of Rolla, MO; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Memorial Hospital Volunteer Scholarship Fund, 1201 West Frank, Lufkin, Texas 75904, or sent to Verma Coleman who will submit them on behalf of the Forest Service.

**Ranger Leonard J. "Jake" Moore**, 95, born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on May 2, 1917, died August 14, 2012, in Midland, Texas. He graduated from Penn State in 1941 with a degree in forestry. He was a WW II bomber pilot, flying B24's and B26's out of Alaska. He worked for the Forest Service in Ohio, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas, retiring as District Ranger on the Tenaha Ranger District of the Sabine National Forest in Texas in 1972. His wife, Dot, preceded him in death in 2009.

**Gary "Bear" McQueen**, 59, of Pollock, Louisiana, passed away Tuesday, August 14, 2012, at Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria, Louisiana. Services were held Friday, August 17, 2012, at Alpine Baptist Church in Tioga, LA. Mr. McQueen retired from the Forest Service after 30 years working as an engineering technician in research. He coached Red River Football, Dixie Boys Baseball and participated in Hurricane Disaster Relief. Gary was a member of Goldwing Road Riders Association and was a charter member of the Deer Paradise Hunters Club.

**James Roy "Jim" Crouch, Sr.**, 72, of Russellville, Arkansas, died August 17, 2012, at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in Russellville. He attended Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi, receiving a Master of Science degree in accounting from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. Jim's Forest Service career spanned 25 years taking him to the National Forests in Texas, and North Carolina with stops in the Washington Office and the Yazoo Little Tallahatchie Project in Mississippi. He retired in 1988 after serving 10 years as Forest Supervisor of the Ozark and St. Francis National Forests in Russellville, Arkansas. He was a specialist in Forestry Consulting and Governmental Affairs and was an effective voice for forests and forest management before Congress. Jim very much enjoyed his involvement in the Arkansas Forestry Association's "Log a Load" Program for the kids at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas. He is survived by his wife Betty, son Dr. James Roy Crouch Jr. and wife Laura Gail; daughter Lou Anne Dunn and husband John of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and 3 grandchildren.

**James Donald "Don" Cooper**, 82, a resident of Prattville, Alabama, died August 19, 2012. Don's Forest Service career spanned 30 years and took him to the National Forests in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Alabama. He retired in 1985 as Timber Staff Officer on the National Forests in Alabama. He is survived by Billie his wife of 58 years; daughter Donna Cooper; sons Dr. Alan Cooper and John Cooper; two grandchildren; and his brother John Cooper.

**Richard L. "Buddy" Crossett**, passed away Saturday evening August 25, 2012. Services were held Wednesday, August 29, 2012, at the Waldron Methodist Church. Buddy began his Forest Service career on the Ouachita National Forest at Mt Ida in 1960. He then went to Lenior, North Carolina where he was Assistant Ranger on the Pisgah NF, then back to the Ouachita in the SO at Hot Springs, followed by the Supervisor's Office in Lufkin, Texas. Next he went to Andalusia, AL, where he was District Ranger on the Conecuh National Forest. He then went back to the Ouachita NF where he finished his career as District Ranger on the Poteau Ranger District in 1986. He is survived by Ann, his wife of 55 years; daughters Lesa Karen Ballou and husband Harry, and Lori Ann Crossett; son Richard L. Crossett II and wife Sherri; and 4 grandchildren. His wife, Ann, says that whenever he was around someone who was a little down he loved to say, "Cheer up things will get worse". If you would like to send a card to the family, their address is 2239 Montgomery St., Waldron, Arkansas 79258.

**Keith Holman**, 83, passed away September 17, 2012, in Blair, Nebraska. In the 1950's Keith was a Junior Forester under District Ranger Joel Nitz at Andalusia, Alabama, on the Conecuh National Forest. Later he moved to Mississippi. In the 1970's he was in the Ouachita National Forest Supervisor's Office in Timber Management. He enjoyed theater and participated in the Omaha Little Theater as a retirement activity. No other information was available.

**Verna Hinegardner**, 93, died October 4, 2012. Verna was in the Ouachita Supervisor's Office in 1970. Alvis Owen was Supervisor. Verna headed up the secretarial pool where all outgoing correspondence was prepared, and she helped start the first round of Forest Planning before her retirement. No Other information was available.

**Doug Hobbs**, 67, passed away October 8, 2012, from complications during routine heart surgery to replace a "leaky valve". He was a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Maryville, TN. Before his career in law enforcement, he graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree from the school's first forestry program and then served in the U. S. Air Force. He was a longtime law enforcement officer for the U.S. Forest Service on the Daniel Boone NF in Kentucky, the NF's in Texas and the Cherokee NF in Tennessee. In 2003 he was a member of the Space Shuttle Columbia Recovery Team. Doug is survived by his brothers Alan Giles and wife Susie; Richard Hobbs and wife Phyllis; Ronald Hobbs and wife Janet; Edwin Hobbs and wife Debbie; sisters Sandra Gaskins and husband Kenneth and Kimberly Chadwell and husband Paul and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father Douglas Hobbs, his mother Helen Giles and stepmother Christine Hobbs. Donations may be made in Doug's memory to the Blount County Humane Society, 1005 East Broadway, Maryville, TN 37904 or the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Building Fund, 3736 Tuckaleechee Pike, Maryville, TN 37804.

**Bryant Watts**, passed away November 4, 2012. He died of a stroke early Sunday morning after having been admitted to the Lexington Medical Center on Saturday. Bryant worked on the Oden and Tiak Ranger Districts of the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas and Oklahoma and on the NF's in North Carolina. Later he was Timber Management Assistant on the Daniel Boone NF in Kentucky. He retired as Timber Staff Officer on the Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests in South Carolina a position he held for many years. He and his wife, Joyce Robinson Watts, who was also a former Forest Service employee, were an active part of the Francis Marion & Sumter retiree group. Bryant was very well-known and respected throughout Region 8. He was highly regarded for his warmth and for his expertise. He is survived by his wife Joyce; sons Gary Watts and wife Darlene and Joel Watts; and daughter Lisa and her husband Jeff Joyner; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Edward Anton Edgette**, 93, of Russellville, Arkansas, died Wednesday, November 7, 2012. He was born in Wisconsin and spent his childhood in Lake Nebagamon and Brule. He joined the Civilian Conservation Corps before serving in the U.S. Army from 1941-46, spending four years in the New Guinea Theater of War as a First Sergeant in the Quarter Master Corp known as "The Bastards" for their constant mobility throughout the Pacific Theater. Upon his return from service he met and married his wife Luella who preceded him in death in 2002, after 57 years of marriage. He enrolled in the Forestry program at the University of Wisconsin Steven's Point. He later transferred to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Forestry. His Forest Service career took him to Texas, Mississippi and, subsequently, Russellville, Arkansas, where he worked in Timber Management and was a Ranger at Mount Magazine until his retirement in 1982. He spent his remaining years in Russellville and in Pence, WI, where he owned a summer home. In addition to his wife he was preceded in death by his daughter Susan Fisher. Survivors include daughter Joan Maree Edgette and son-in-law Guary Fisher both of Russellville, Arkansas; two grandsons; two great-grandsons; and one sister. In accordance with his wishes, a private burial will take place at a later date for "another of "The Greatest Generation".

"Find something you love to do, and you'll never have to work a day in your life."

Unknown

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**GARY BELL**  
P.O. Box 722  
Waldron, AR 72958  
(479) 637-1053

**JOHN CAFFIN (DEBBIE)**  
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**ROBERT MITCHELL (JOANN)**  
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Mena AR 71953  
(479) 216-0596  
[mtchro9@yahoo.com](mailto:mtchro9@yahoo.com)

### Changes and Additions to March 2012 Directory

**T.W. Green** - telephone # added: (770) 963-4696  
**Russell Griffith** - new e-mail: [jr112griffith@bellsouth.net](mailto:jr112griffith@bellsouth.net)  
**Norm Heintz** - telephone #: (919) 293-1014  
**Horace Landrith** - change e-mail: [hlandrith@yahoo.com](mailto:hlandrith@yahoo.com)  
**Darlene Lentini** - add telephone #: (770) 921-5601 and change e-mail: [dlentini@comcast.net](mailto:dlentini@comcast.net)  
**Glenn McConnell** - change e-mail: [glennmc@carolina.rr.com](mailto:glennmc@carolina.rr.com)  
**Steve McCorquodale** - e-mail correction: [stevehelgamcq@centurytel.net](mailto:stevehelgamcq@centurytel.net)  
**Robert Potter** - address change from NC to FL: 92A Tulipwood Ct; St Johns, FL 32259-3057  
(940) 484-1660 and e-mail: [mumuPotter@yahoo.com](mailto:mumuPotter@yahoo.com)  
**Vickie Sell** - change e-mail: [vickies1297@gmail.com](mailto:vickies1297@gmail.com)  
**Karl Stoneking** - new e-mail: [K.Stoneking1102@gmail.com](mailto:K.Stoneking1102@gmail.com)

★ **Was your information in the March 2012 Directory correct?**  
If not, let Tom Tibbs know before the new directory comes out in March 2013.

### ★ MEMBERSHIP STATUS REPORT FROM TOM TIBBS ★

As indicated in the July 2012, Dixie Ranger, a number of members have fallen behind in their dues. Based on the Bylaws of the organization and the notice published in the July issue, those members 2 or more years in arrears would be removed on October 15, 2012. A total of 24 members were removed from the mailing list as of October 15, 2012. There were 4 members from 2008, 6 from 2009, and 14 from 2010. Currently, there are still 38 members that are now one-full-year behind. This is the final friendly notice for those members that have the year 2011 on the first line of the mailing address. These names will be removed from the mailing list as of January 15,

2013. Please also note that as of January 1, 2013, there will be 126 members whose dues expire. These are the folks that have 2012 on the first line of their mailing address. Please check the address on the envelope to see your current membership status. If you have tossed the envelope, you may e-mail the Treasurer, Tom Tibbs at [qtibbs6@embarqmail.com](mailto:qtibbs6@embarqmail.com) or contact by telephone (276) 783-2498 for your current status.

— FYI —

Annual dues of \$10 are due January 1, 2013. Check your address block, on the back or last page of *The Dixie Ranger* or if an envelope is used for mailing, it (the date) will be on the address area, just beyond your name. This date is the year through which your dues are paid. For example, if yours shows "2012", you are paid through December 31, 2012. Dues payments and any changes in your address, phone number or e-mail address should be sent to Tom Tibbs at 627 Oak Lane, Marion, VA 24354. Any changes in your information may also be e-mailed to Tom at [qtibbs6@embarqmail.com](mailto:qtibbs6@embarqmail.com)

Death notices/obituaries should be sent to Sid Haggard, 10139 Malcolm Drive SE, Covington, GA 30014-5105 or Sunny Cudabac via e-mail at [scudabac@mindspring.com](mailto:scudabac@mindspring.com)

Stories, articles and photographs that you would like published in *The Dixie Ranger* should be sent to Sid Haggard, 10139 Malcolm Dr SE, Covington, GA 30014-5105 or [sidhaggard@att.net](mailto:sidhaggard@att.net)

**Keep your letters and stories coming!!! They are the backbone of the newsletter.** Any notes, letters, etc. you include with your dues payments to Tom Tibbs will be sent to Sid. Tom and Sid will forward e-mail changes and death notices to Sonny Cudabac, so that he can continue to timely communicate news of Forest Service employees -- activities, deaths, etc. via his members' e-mail list and, most importantly, keep his list up-to-date. If you have not given Sonny your e-mail address and would like to be on his mailing list, you can do so at [scudabac@mindspring.com](mailto:scudabac@mindspring.com).

After eight years of outstanding work producing *The Dixie Ranger*, Peggy and Dave Jolly are stepping down after this edition. When you see them, please extend your thanks for the time they have expended doing this. No one has volunteered to take over this task. Many have been asked without anyone saying yes. In the interim, I will take this assignment until we find somebody on a more "permanent" basis or the Board of Directors chooses a contractor. Please send your articles and other items to me at [SidHaggard@att.net](mailto:SidHaggard@att.net). Thanks again, Peggy and Dave, for a job well done!

**BERT BRAY writes** - Josie Jackson's thoughts about seeing Forest Service "Green" retired vehicles around town triggered a memory from way back to my early days in Atlanta.

I regularly attended the National Environmental Education workshop meeting in August. Since this meeting moved around the country, I found it convenient to plan family vacations around it, taking annual leave before and after the meeting. The family went their way in our station wagon the week while I stayed in billets at the meeting place itself, usually a college campus. On this occasion the meeting was in northern California, and as usual, thanks to Tena's tight schedules with many sightseeing stops for the four boys to enjoy, we could not dawdle. However, Murphy's

Law was at work, and as we rolled into Sante Fe, New Mexico, the car died -- motor, lights, radio, everything. Triple A towed us into the local dealership.

Here, the Service Manager said, "Sorry folks, but we are loaded down, I can't get to you till day after tomorrow." My jaw dropped, and I believe Tena was about at tears, when I glanced outside on the new car lot and saw four shiny Forest Service Green cars. Right then I asked the Service Manager what he was doing with them. He informed me they were on the way out to Districts, and they were prepping them for service.

At this point I felt inspired, and told him I was a Forest Service employee. He asked to see my Forest Service drivers license. Upon reading it, he told me, "Go see the cashier, she will give you a set of keys to one of our loaners. You go see the sights downtown, and be back before six, 'cause we close then. I should have you ready to roll in two hours!"

As it turned out, the only problem was a burnt thru resister wire to the voltage control, and sure enough when we got back to the dealership the car was ready to go.

What a relief, and a happy ending, just because I noticed those beautiful new "Green" cars.

- - -

The other story preceded my Forest Service career, but was triggered by Larry Trezell's falling into the cistern story.

On an extra large Florida fire during the 1952-55 drought period, International Paper Company forest employees were on the firelines alongside Florida Forest Service folks, of which I was one. The FFS tractor was laying down a fireline, about midnight on a very dark night. Well out in front of the fire, an IPC forester had been tagged to run the backfire torch, dropping fire close behind the fire plow. As the tractor operator told it, "I glanced back, and the IPC man had quit laying down backfire," which made the fireline useless in such a big fire. And we couldn't raise an answer calling the IPC man. And his torch was missing. At that point we mounted a massive search, and soon found him, alive, but treading water at the bottom of an old moonshiners dug well, about thirty feet deep. He said, "I didn't think you were ever going to hear me!" We lowered the tractor winch cable and pulled him out, but lost our torch.

★ ★ ★

**DONALD BLACKBURN writes** - As a result of your plea for some Dixie Ranger articles, I am submitting my experiences with the Kisatchie National Forest Trespass Livestock Program which I inherited when I moved to the Evangeline Ranger District in June of 1962. After settling in, Forest Supervisor Ray took me for a ride around the district, enumerating the problems that he suggested I tackle. Trespass livestock was a major problem, grazing allotments were being over grazed, causing conflicts with our partners in the Game and Fish Agency. Additionally, damage to plantations we were establishing was occurring. My predecessor (Nathan Byrd) had tried to tackle this problem, but had the rug pulled out from under him when it became time to get serious (impoundment). I had an excellent professional/technical/clerical staff so with the support of Forest Supervisor Hans Raum and Regional Range Staff Wayne Cloward, I began to spend many of my days riding through the District, locating trespass herds of cattle, horses & goats. Had to learn to identify brands and ear marks to determine ownership and establish each herds grazing habits by

location.

As this information began to come together, I started visiting the livestock owners. Many of the owners had day jobs, so my contacts were primarily in the evenings, trying to convince them that the Forest Service was serious about getting all trespass livestock under permit or removed by a certain date. In 1968, I told Supervisor Raum that I was ready for the impoundment stage. The region sent us some range money to build a corral/loading chute at my work center, and to acquire a stock trailer and tranquilizer gun. With everything now ready to proceed, I sent each trespass owner a registered letter and an application form for grazing permit, stating the date we would begin impounding any livestock not under permit and ear tagged. The date came and passed without a single application being submitted. About that time I received word that I was being transferred to National Forests in Alabama as Fire & Operations Staff. Hans wanted me to complete the first impoundment before I left the District. We set a date, I decided to start with Mr. J.O. B's herd because I knew they would be located each morning at the junction of the Twin Bridge/State Rte, 112 roads. At the chosen time the highly qualified impoundment crew showed up with stock trailer and tranquilizer gun (Forest Supervisor Rahm, Range Staff Officer Clyde Peacock, Forest Investigator Jack Boren and myself). I suggested that Jack and Clyde select the two animals to be tranquilized while I made one more plea with Hans to kill my transfer, since I had much to accomplish yet on the District. Hans then informed me he had just received notice of his transfer to Atlanta. He was told to prepare to enjoy his new job in Atlanta, and that I should do the same about my new job in Montgomery.

We turned our attention to the job at hand. Clyde and Jack had picked out a beautiful registered Brahma Bull and cow (my mind must have been missing at that moment, considering the Bull weighed in at over 2,000 pounds and would be dead weight when tranquilized). Jack fired two darts and the bull and cow dropped to their knees in a daze. We then began the arduous task of loading these two animals using a block and tackle and a come along. Loaded and off to the work center. The drug had basically worn off so unloading into the corral was no problem. I knew Mr. J.O. B. who had a job hauling gravel for the state during the day, would be out to check his herd after supper. I figured he might not miss the cow, but I knew he would miss his prized bull. And I knew he would immediately show up at my work center to reclaim his animals. Knowing this, I decided to remain at the work center until he showed up. With Clyde's help we figured an impoundment fee that Mr. B. would have to pay to get his livestock back that night. As I remember it came to \$102.00 and some odd cents. Then Hans, Jack and Clyde left for Alexandria. About dusky dark Mr. B. Came roaring in with his truck and stock trailer. He came out of the truck with his 30-30 and mad as a hornet. Never had a cussing out like that one with threats to shoot me if I did not unlock the gate on the corral. When I finally had a chance to explain payment of the impoundment fee would be necessary, Mr. B. Pulled out his wallet and tossed two \$100 dollar bills on the ground at my feet, told me to give him his change and open the lock or he would shoot it off. I grabbed the phone, called Jack in Alexandria, told him what was happening and that I need change for a \$100 bill. About 30 minutes later Jack showed up with change, and we sent a very unhappy Mr. B. Home with his prize bull and cow.

I had hoped that was the end of this story. It wasn't. Couple of weeks later, my family and I were on our way out of town heading for Montgomery. We stopped at a bank to clear our checking account. That done I turned around to leave the bank and met Mr. B. Coming in. His first words (spoken loud enough for everyone in the bank to hear) was: Ranger my \$20,000 registered bull is sterile as a result of your tranquilizing him. What are you gonna do about it? I told Mr. B. I had been transferred and was, at that moment, leaving town. Suggested he visit the Ranger District or



Supervisor's Office and get a claim to file for alleged damages to his \$500 bull. My family and I did not want to leave Alexandria, but at that moment I was happy to be on the way out.

**Jim McConnell - Book Review** - THE LIFE AND LOVE OF TREES by Lewis Blackwell is a coffee table book, but if you are interested in trees it is a book for you. Not forestry, but trees: urban trees and forest trees. It is chuck-full of beautiful photos of leaves, bark, stands of trees, single trees, trees in rows, swamps, deserts, mountains, valleys and rivers. Many of the photos would look good in a frame in most any room in your house. Not only are the photos outstanding but the text gives a non-technical account of how trees work to convert carbon dioxide into oxygen along with other interesting facts. We need trees and they go about their business quietly in a number of diverse ways. The author very aptly explains the vast complexity of trees all around the world. I have been messing with trees, including their sex lives, since I graduated from college, but this book taught me several things. The author is really remarkable and seems to have been everywhere, including several national forests. The bar code on the book cover says it sells for \$50 but I got my copy from Hamilton Book Company, PO 17, Falls Village, CT for \$19.93 + \$3.50 (Item 3495973) mailing and handling if you are interested. Check them out at [www.HamiltonBook.com](http://www.HamiltonBook.com). They are a bit odd because you can get a better deal on books with a paper mail order and a paper check to pay. The \$3.50 mailing and handling covers the entire order, not just a single book. Satisfaction guaranteed and they will take a book back with no questions asked. I did and they will.

\* \* \*

**Jim Wenner** provided this interesting article with the following comment, "I'm sure glad researchers verified what we thought was common knowledge decades ago."

**Academic Report Finds Active Management of Forests Important** - Researchers from Oregon State University and Michigan State University recently published findings in the professional journal *Forest Ecology and Management*. They found that whatever short-term drawbacks there may be from logging, thinning, or other fuel reduction activities in areas with high fire risk would be more than offset by improved forest health and fire-resistance characteristics, which allow more spotted owl habitat to survive in later decades.

Decades of fire suppression and a "hands-off" approach to management on many public lands have created overcrowded forests that bear little resemblance to their historic condition - at the expense of some species such as the northern spotted owl, researchers said. If current trends continue forest conditions will continue to get even more crowded, insect and disease epidemics will increase, and forests will face stress from a warmer and often drier climate.

### **About Region 8 -- From The Chief's Desk**

*People, Places and Things*, October 26, 2012

**Free maps offered to protect Alabama National Forests from user-created roads** -- The National Forests in Alabama are offering free motor vehicle-use maps in an effort to protect natural resources and prevent adverse impacts in the forests. The Bankhead, Conecuh, Talladega and Tuskegee National Forests now offer visitors a free motor vehicle-use map that identifies which Forest Service roads and trails are designated for legal motor vehicle travel. The maps are posted on the National Forests in Alabama website and are available at Forest Service district offices throughout the state.

**National forests in Mississippi celebrate the Great Delta Bear Affair** -- More than 500 fourth graders attended the Great Delta Bear Affair Festival in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. The affair promotes wildlife, the environment and natural resources through events. One of the interesting facts shared: the cuddly teddy bear tradition derived from President Theodore Roosevelt more than 110 years ago came about because he refused to shoot a semiconscious bear during a hunt in the Delta because he thought it unsportsmanlike.

**Southern Research Station -- 2012 American Chestnut Summit** -- The American Chestnut Foundation and the Forest Service presented the 2012 American Chestnut Summit, October 19-21, in Asheville, North Carolina. The conference included presentations, workshops and the largest field tour ever held at the Bent Creek Experimental Forest. This summit brought together members, scientists, foresters and others who are interested in or working on restoration of American Chestnut to Eastern forests. Nearly 70 participants viewed American Chestnut test plantings and learned about the ongoing research and cooperative studies between The American Chestnut Foundation, the Forest Service and other state and local partners.

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*People, Places and Things*, November 9, 2012

**National Forests in Florida teams up with Coast Guard historians to present living history** -- The U.S. Coast Guard Historic Ship's Company presented a living history event for Franklin County High School students during a recent visit to the Apalachicola National Forest. More than 100 students attended the event at Fort Gadsden, the only historic landmark in the region. Uniformed sailors described shipboard life at sea, demonstrating navigation, depth finding, weapons use, surgery, medicine, games and shipboard commands. Students were allowed to handle the equipment as living historians answered questions from their teachers.

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*People, Places and Things*, October 5, 2012

**Forests host "Celebration of Wilderness" events in Virginia** -- The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests partnered with the Virginia Wilderness Committee and Wild Virginia to host two public "Celebration of Wilderness" events in late September. In Blacksburg and Harrisonburg, more than 260 people participated in events, which focused on the National Wilderness Preservation System, Wilderness in Virginia, Wilderness stewardship and the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

**Kisatchie firefighter earns award for wildfire prevention** -- Scott Staples recently received the 2011 Robert E. Browning, Jr. Award for excellence in fire prevention for the state of Louisiana. After the Kisatchie National Forest firefighter recognized the danger of fuel build up along an urban interface in the Kisatchie Hills Wilderness Area, he worked with private landowners to allow the Forest Service to prescribe burn the wilderness boundaries. This increased protection for homes, private timberland, the public and firefighters.

★ ★ ★

### FIDDLIN' FORESTERS RETIRE

For nearly two decades, the Fiddlin' Foresters have been carrying their conservation awareness message across the country, singing about fire prevention, nature preservation and protecting our lands for the future; however, they have decided that it is time for the band to retire. They are Forest Service retirees, employees and volunteers and are known as the "official old-time string band of the U.S. Forest Service". They have played at more than 300 concerts in 25 states. The band took off in 1994 when it played for Smokey Bear's 50th anniversary celebration in Washington, D.C. Mainstays of the group over the years are: Jane Leche; Tom Dalton McFarland (volunteer); Jim Maxwell (retired); and Lynn Young (retired). Lynn worked in R-8 at one time. Their CD, In The Long Run, released around the 1994 Forest Service Centennial Celebration, features their unique sound. "Cold Missouri Water" and "Song of Wyoming" are two favorites, as well as the all-time-favorite of Forest Service folks - "Smokey the Bear". The CD is available from the Rocky Mountain Nature Association.

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 Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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