

# The Dixie Ranger

Editors: Bert and Betty Bray Vol. XXVIII No. 2 May 1998

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The March luncheon was attended by 32 people. Those in attendance for the first time were Bob Bowers, Bobby Carter and Dale Rapin. The guest speaker, Bob Brown, gave an excellent presentation on wood carving. Jerry Edwards and Bob Brown belong to the same wood carvers organization. Harry Rossoll brought us up-to-date on his Tree Bear project. Harry, who is retired from the Forest Service, is working on a book about Tree Bear for third through fifth grade children. He hopes to have it ready in 1999.

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## Forest Service Chief Announces Natural Resource Agenda for 21st Century

Washington, DC (March 2, 1998) - USDA Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck today unveiled the agency's Natural Resource Agenda for the 21st Century in a speech before Forest Service employees. The agenda serves as the Chief's statement of commitment; especially to watershed health improvements, sustainable forest management, outdoor recreation, and a scientific based forest road policy that meets the needs of Americans and protects the environment, according to Dombeck.

"Every United States citizen is a stockholder of our National Forests," Dombeck said. "This agenda will help us more effectively engage in one of the noblest, most important callings of our generation...bringing people together and helping them find ways to live within the limits of the land."

"We have two very basic choices. We can sit back on our heels and react to the newest litigation or the latest court order. Or, we can lead by example! The answer is clear...we must lead," Dombeck said.

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*Southern Forest Service Retirees Association, 1973 Hwy 34  
East, Newnan, GA 30265-1327. Printed in February, May, August  
and November. Dues are \$8 per year, payable in January.*

The agenda's four emphasis areas are watershed restoration and maintenance, sustainable forest ecosystem management, forest roads, and recreation. The President's 1999 proposed budget reflects support to the agenda's priorities by forecasting more than \$120 million in new spending on watershed protection and restoration.

The Forest Service's natural resource agenda places a strong emphasis on watershed protection. Dombeck called watershed restoration and maintenance the "oldest and highest calling of the Forest Service," and announced it would be the over-riding priority of forest planning and management. "With 80 percent of the nation's fresh water sources originating on National Forest system lands, in a very real sense the National Forests are the headwaters of the nation," he said.

"We must protect our healthiest watersheds and restore those that are degraded," Dombeck said. "We must also continue our long tradition of protecting wild areas, such as wilderness so they can remain important reserves of clean water and biological diversity."

Other watershed management improvements he proposed include increasing stream and streamside restoration by 40 percent by 1999, habitat restoration for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species by 30 percent, and abandoned mine reclamation by 50 percent.

"The second part of our agenda is managing sustainable forest ecosystems," Dombeck said. "In order to keep our watersheds productive, we must work across fence lines in a voluntary and collaborative manner with other federal, state, and interested private landowners."

He said the Forest Service is committed to "working in a non-regulatory manner with state, local, and other partners to report on the health of all forested landscapes across the country by 2003." Other commitments include working with state foresters and helping more than 3,000 private landowners voluntarily develop scientifically based stewardship plans and working with Congress to develop policies that encourage long-term investments in forests and discourage their conversion to other uses."

Dombeck stated his opposition to calls for a 'zero-cut' policy for National Forests. He pointed out that the Forest Service has reduced the use of clearcutting by 84 percent in the last decade, and that timber sales whose primary objective is to restore forest health have increased by 70 percent in the last five years.

"Even with these improvements, we hear increasing calls for a 'zero-cut' policy for National Forests," he said. "I am opposed to this proposition. Common sense supports active management of National Forests based on the best available science."

"A stable timber supply from National Forests is essential for many rural communities. We need to help provide this stability so that companies will make needed investments in new equipment and technologies and provide jobs. National Forests should be a model for demonstrating how active forest management can meet economic needs and maintain and restore watershed health."

Dombeck, the 14th Chief of the Forest Service, said his proposal to develop a new road policy was critical for natural resource managers to fulfill their management activities, provide rural citizens access to their lands, and recreationists access to the nation's 191 million acres of National Forest System lands.

"The benefits of roads are many," he said. "So, too, are the environmental impacts of our watersheds. There are few more irreparable marks we can leave on the land than to build a road."

Dombeck said, "Building a new forest road requires a short-term outlay of cash. Funding its maintenance over time, however, requires a long-term financial commitment. Failure to maintain the forest road system can limit public access and cause tremendous environmental damage."

For these reasons, the Forest Service recently proposed development of a long-term road strategy and the temporary suspension of road construction in roadless areas. Meanwhile, Dombeck said the President's budget proposal to Congress includes a 26-percent road maintenance increase, and a 66-percent increase in major improvements to forest road bridges.

Dombeck also announced an initiative to improve the Forest Service recreation program. The Forest Service is the largest provider of outdoor recreation in the nation. "Recreation provides the link—a window through which an increasingly urban society can enjoy and appreciate the natural world," he said. "Forest Service managed lands provide more outdoor recreation opportunities than anywhere else in the United States. We are committed to providing superior customer service and ensuring that the rapid growth of recreation on National Forests does not compromise the long-term health of the land."

To fulfill this commitment, Dombeck said proposals have been made to increase recreation funding by \$20 million and increase funding to enhance opportunities for fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, and conservation education, and to accelerate the conversion of unneeded roads to trails.

"Overall, our goal is to help people live in productive harmony with the watersheds that sustain us all," Dombeck said. "We cannot do it alone. The issues are too broad, the land base too large, and resources too scarce. We can only redeem our role as conservation leaders by working with, and learning from, others."

Full text of the speech and details of the agenda may be viewed or downloaded on the internet as [www.fs.fed.us/news/agenda/](http://www.fs.fed.us/news/agenda/). (Copied from Eastern Forest Service Retirees' Newsletter, Vol. XV, Issue 1, March 1998)

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*"Accept the challenges, so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory."*

—General George S. Patton



## Reunion 2000

Preliminary plans are underway for the **Reunion 2000** in Missoula, Montana on September 5, 6 & 7, 2000. Program plans are in the early stages of development but some of the ideas being considered will be some type of get-together the afternoon or evening of September 4th, a short introductory program on September 5th with participation by the Chief and the Regional Forester. The 6th will be planned for several local show-me trips on the Lolo and Bitterroot Forests, or the time can be spent doing activities that individuals would like. A banquet or barbecue would end the day. The 7th will have a short program of a local nature and a possible luncheon or picnic at the site of the future National Forest Service Museum. Extended tours will be planned for those wanting to come before the meeting, or for those wanting to do some touring after the meeting is finished.

The various Forest Service retirement groups will be canvassed so that the Missoula folks will have an idea of how many people plan to attend.

Should you have any ideas or suggestions for program content and subject matter for show-me trips, please write or call Lorin Hearst, 443 Plymouth, Missoula, MT 59801, 406.543.5843.

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## LUNCHEON JUNE 11

Our next luncheon is on June 11 at the Petite Auberge restaurant on North Druid Hills Road in the Toco Hills Shopping Center. We meet at 11:30 a.m. for fellowship with lunch at 12 noon. The cost of the luncheon is \$10. Reservations should be made no later than June 9. I urge you to make reservations. The restaurant can always accommodate us, but we would like to give them the approximate number attending. Please phone in your reservations to either Peaches Sherman 770.253.7480 or the Brays 770.253.0392. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

IN MEMORIAM

William V. (Bill) Cranston, 94, died February 3, 1998, in Birmingham, AL. Preceded in death by his wife, Della, 94, who died in July 1997. Survived by one son, Allen, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Patrick B. "Duke" Higginbotham, 59, died February 16, in Atlanta, GA. Pat retired in 1994 as an accountant with the Forest Service in the Regional Office.

Carter Qualls, 77, died February 14 in Laguna Vista, TX. Survived by wife, Lucy.

Leon R. Thomas, former Special Staff Assistant to Arthur W. Greeley in the Washington Office, died in September 1997. Mr. Thomas retired in 1968.

Anne S. Tuttle, 68, died February 4, 1998. Survived by husband, William A. "Bill" Tuttle, one daughter, two sons and two grandchildren.

Vernal Ether Taylor, 89, died January 7, in Hood River, Oregon. He was preceded in death by his wife Ellen in 1994. Survived by two sons, one daughter, 14 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.



New Message

There is some confusion on dues and when they should be paid. The last two figures in parentheses on your address label, i.e. (98), indicates that dues have been paid through the end of 1998. Dues for 1999 should be paid the first of January. I suggest that you not pay your dues more than two years in advance. We're in good financial shape. Postage may go up that could change that, but for now we are doing very well.

You may have noticed that the bulk mail label now reads "Newnan, GA." With the approval of the Board of Directors, we moved all operations for the newsletter to our residence. Bert and I no longer drive to Atlanta to deliver *The Dixie Ranger* to the Decatur Post Office. We now can get the newsletter to the Newnan Post Office within 15 minutes.

We did have some problems getting the last newsletter to some of you. During the process of bulk mail distribution, some newsletters were not delivered. I always mail a copy to myself so that I know the newsletter at least got to the bulk mail distribution center in Duluth, GA. Once it leaves there, it is the

mail carrier's responsibility to make delivery. Sometimes they do and sometimes they don't. Sometimes a machine will eat the newsletter. I always run a few extra copies so please let me know if you do not get your copy.

### THE BIRTH OF A FIRE BREAK PLOW By Hob Howard

In 1931 several fires in the flatwoods of the Osceola National Forest in northern Florida got out of control because the firebreaks made with hand tools were not only time consuming but also ineffective during some weather conditions. A more effective method was needed. Someone who had seen a disc plow operate in the sugar cane fields of south Florida suggested such a plow might be what was needed.

In the spring of 1932 when a stubborn fire occurred in the northwest corner of the Osceola, a four-disc plow made by the Hester Plow Company of Jacksonville was delivered to the fire site. The plow was well built but it wasn't designed to go through saw palmetto which was an ubiquitous ground cover for most of the non-swamp areas of the Osceola. After a short time in operation the plow was damaged and useless.

The idea of plowing a firebreak prevailed. Worth Hadley, who was Forest Supervisor, arranged to have Leon Mathis, the owner of a machine shop in Lake City, Florida, attempt to develop a dependable plow. Mathis agreed to go ahead if someone from the Forest Service would work with him. The operation was known as the Hadley Plow Project. Harry Howard who had some plow experience in Pennsylvania was assigned to work with Mathis.

The first model was patterned after the Hester plow with a stronger frame and larger discs. It didn't plow a clean break. After several trials and errors in adjusting the angles of the discs, a plow was developed that would produce a clean break where palmetto was sparse, but at a slow speed in heavy palmetto the berm would fall back into the furrow.

To solve that problem someone suggested installing a rolling coulter in the center of the plow ahead of the discs. That model did the job in heavy palmetto and was a dependable firebreak plow.

Forest Supervisor Hadley allowed Mr. Mathis to patent the plow and manufacture replicas. The plow was marketed as the Mathis plow and became standard equipment on most of the flatwoods forests of the southern United States that were protected by Federal, State or private organizations. Through the years the major changes that were made in the plow included replacing the hand cranked gear mechanism for raising and lowering the plow with a hydraulic system and replacing the iron wheels with tires. There were also different models with two discs for forest areas that had no palmetto and some of those models had no wheels.

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*We are not prisoners of fate, but only prisoners of our own minds.*  
—Franklin D. Roosevelt



## LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

**Charles Blankenship, Roanoke, VA** - Enclosed is my check for 1998 membership dues. I've missed a year because all us Forest Service folks in Roanoke been busy.

About 4 years ago we formed a retirees group that meets every other week. Some of this group formed an Urban Forestry Council, A Greenway Commission, the Western Virginia Land Trust and the Pathfinders for Greenways. Former USFS employees serve on the Boards of these non-profits and the total membership of all the groups exceeds 1,000.

The new Chief came by recently to find out what's going on in Roanoke. If you see Ed Macie in S&PF give him a pat on the head—none of our work would have happened without him.

Under the local Who's Who Department—the oft mentioned Don Blackburn comes to our meetings and he's lent the Forest a lot of old fire personnel directories to reconstruct a bit of history.

Jimmy Short and Doris are regulars between visits to Arkansas and fishing trips and grandbaby visits. Last year Jimmy was MC for a Short reunion in Arkansas and that drew a crowd.

Some of you who worked on the Jefferson will remember Bill and Ollie Campbell. And you'll be happy to hear they're keeping well as Senior Seniors and attend our luncheon get-togethers regularly.

Charlie Rozier, after a successful heart transplant, went back to work for a bit, but recently decided to retire and let Ann support him. We were delighted to see Charlie looking good at our last luncheon.

Reggie Kinman went back in the hospital before Christmas for a little more surgery, but he's doing well enough for a trip to Florida where he played 18 holes of golf without an ache or pain.

We really enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* up here because we can keep up with old friends. Bob Neelands letters always are good for a lot of remembering. Thanks for all your work.

**Frank Ferrarelli, Reno, NV** - A little late but enclosed is a check for "98" & "99" dues—wouldn't want to get dropped and miss the newsletter.

Joyce and I are still moving about. Didn't get beyond Oregon, California and Nevada though. Got in a lot of fishing, a little golf and cross country skiing and a lot of relative visiting.

Still hope to some day make a meeting or some other event. In the meantime, keep up the good work on the newsletter.

**Chuck Steele**, Woodstock, GA - Just read my D.R. with my morning cup of coffee and found myself delinquent again with my dues—well, memory is one of the first things to go. It left me about 40 years ago. So, in this moment of enlightenment I'm gonna pay up for three years. This way I'll enter the new millenium (nice buzz word these days) paying my dues on time.☺

Sure enjoyed getting the update directory in this last issue. Thanks! Having only been in R-8 and the Forest Service nine years (after 25 years with the BLM) I don't have the long history of friends as most members in the Southern Region, but I do enjoy keeping track of those I do have. The D.R. does that for me. Again, thanks!

**Don and Bobbie Hughes**, Port Charlotte, FL - Thoroughly enjoyed the last *Dixie Ranger* and glad to get the Roster update. Lot of familiar names that recalled many memorable experiences. Even going through all the names in the Roster helped to recall a lot of friends. Bobbie and I are in good health and still very active. Spent almost 6 months on our boat (40 foot single engine trawler) and some 3,000 miles cruising up the East Coast and the Chesapeake. Went all the way to northeast Maryland (about as far north as you go in the Chesapeake). The Eastern shore has some of the most beautiful anchorages up sheltered creeks and bays. The little towns and villages are all historic and the residents very friendly to boaters. This summer we plan to put the boat in dry storage and take the motorhome to Alaska. We are doing it while we can. Will take the roster along and hopefully visit some Forest Service friends along the way. Any of you pass thru Port Charlotte on the West coast of Florida...the welcome mat is out although it might be a good idea to call first to make sure we are at home!!

**Jay Cravens**, Milwaukee, WI - Lucy Freeman just informed me Carter Qualls passed away on 14 February at his home in Laguna Vista, Texas. I developed an early friendship with Carter at the very beginning of our careers with the Forest Service in Region 3. We were typical of a large influx of new employees who joined the Forest Service in the late 40's. We had completed our military obligations as World War II came to a close. We married, returned to school for a short time, completed our unfinished college work and were eager to go to work. We enjoyed a good life in the South-western Region and our associates on frequent occasions.



Carter was good for the Forest Service and was well liked by associates and forest users alike. He had a broad smile that would brighten anyone's day. Unlike many of us, Carter returned to active duty in 1950 with the Air Force and flew B-25 bombers in Korea. Again he returned to the Forest Service and enjoyed his work in the Southwestern Region and later in the Southern Region.

I last saw Carter and Lucy at one of the Quemado, New Mexico Retirees Roundups. We talked about some of the exciting times we had on forest fires, dealing with various permittees and our retirement life. Carter and Lucy were active in the Coast Guard Auxillary in Texas and had some exciting tales to relate. They enjoyed life together and took that "once-in-a-lifetime" trip last year on a Russian icebreaker to the North Pole area.

I am again reminded that the retiree gatherings and newsletters are so important and we are able to visit with and hear about old friends. I encourage anyone who can make the time available to attend one of the gatherings and be a member of one of the retiree groups.

Gordon Small, Waynesville, NC - These retiree newsletters are different—they don't send dunning notices. Anyway, here is our check for 1998. We enjoy reading *The Dixie Ranger*.

The following item may be of some interest to a few members. There is now a Forest Service retirees "listserv" on the Internet. If a person has access to a personal computer and the Internet, they can become members of this automated mailing list at no charge. There is not a lot of mail that comes across this service, but once in a while something of interest will show up. It has the potential for quickly alerting a number of folks about issues of mutual concern, and it can be a good way to stay in touch with folks.

The way you become a member is to send e-mail to majordomo@main.nc.us. There should be no entry in the subject line of your e-mail message. If you are on AOL, you may have to enter a . in the subject block to mail the letter. In the body of the text, type the following message: subscribe fsretirees youremailaddress. For example, in my case, I would subscribe by typing subscribe fsretirees gordons891@aol.com. You will get a confirmation notice that you have been subscribed. From that time on, anytime anyone posts something to the list, it will automatically appear as e-mail in your inbox. If you choose, you can respond to the entire list or just to the person posting the message. Mail sent to the list is sent to fsretirees@main.nc.us. Your inbox will not get flooded, but interesting things come across from time to time. Folks can contact me at the above address (e-mail or snail mail) if they have any questions.

**Carl & Mary Jane Hoover, Little Rock, AR** - Here's my \$25 to catch up on and maybe stay ahead for a little while on the dues for this fine publication. I enjoy it a lot, especially those reminiscences from John Boren. His letters reflect his dynamic presence. Keep 'em coming, John. Remember that Clenny trial in the old, upstairs courtroom in Mt. Ida back in '63? I've been eternally grateful for the felony conviction you brought about. The Jessieville was fire-free for months after that.

This past July I retired from my second career--this time from the Ark. Territorial Restoration, a historical museum in downtown Little Rock. Since then "tomorrow" has taken on a fine new aspect for us here. I dream up plans and lists of "things to do" and then I always keep putting them off. Cecil Clapp gave me that good advice some time ago, "Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow." I learned that the key to that truth is the ability to discern what you can and cannot put off. But now--it's all put off till tomorrow. I guess that's why I'm, till now, in arrears.

Since last March we've been to Purgatory, the Baptist Hospital, Atlanta, Rehoboth Beach, Mullian Hill, Reading, Hershey, Connerock, Waco and points between visiting kith and kin. See you soon.

**Pat & Elsie Int-Hout, Wenatchee, WA** - Enclosed is a check to cover us for a few more years. We certainly enjoy receiving *The Dixie Ranger* with news of old friends and acquaintances from our days working in the Southeast. All is well with Miss Elsie and myself and all our 5 children and their families. When you develop your e-mail listing, would you add ours: PINTHOUT@AOL.COM. We look forward to receiving any news from those old friends who are on the Internet.

We recently upgraded our home computer and are continually amazed at the information available. Working with it as hard as I can, I still haven't been able to cut any strokes off the golf game, however. Seems like my handicap rises right along with my age. Strange.

Elsie and I often speak of our days in old Region 8 and the fine times we had with many of the F.S. gang in the 14 years we worked in Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

**Walt Smith, Arden, NC** - It's a good thing that you put the date on *The Dixie Ranger*. I didn't realize I was in arrears. Enclosed is \$16 to cover whatever.

I don't do much of any travel now as Lois has dementia and is in the Rest Home at Aston Park here in Asheville. I have been able to do some woodworking here at home. My church asked me to make five bookcases for our music room. I'd like to second what others have said--it's good to hear what the other Retirees are doing.

**Elmer R. Jacobs**, Cleveland, TN - I was surprised to see that about 230 people retired from the Forest Service at this time. There must be a lot of retirees out there now.

When I retired many years ago, somebody figured out how many people had to keep working for me to retire. The number was about seven. The money that I paid into the retirement fund covered about 3 years. When I first started working my base pay was less than \$5,000 per year with a 4% retirement contribution. Minimum back then was 75 cents per hour or less. This was almost 50 years ago. Does anyone know how many R-8 retirees are still living?

**Claude Moody**, Montgomery, AL - Just wanted to give you my e-mail address and phone number. Greatly enjoy *The Dixie Ranger*. Ann is now retired so we can really do a lot more. We both do a little consulting type stuff, mostly for fun. Life is good.

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### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Charles Blankenship, 5215 Sugarloaf Dr., Roanoke, VA 24018-2253  
Phone 540.774.6272

Robert D. Bowers, 4245 Iris Brooke Ln., Lithonia, GA 30058  
Phone 770.972.1281 E-mail: BOWEZX@Worldnet.att.net

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Danny Britt (Claudene), 206 Red Fox Circle, Pineville, LA 71360  
Phone 318.442.5852

Martha R. Brown (J.P.), 2501 Tunnell Hill Rd., SW, Cleveland, TN 37311  
Phone 423.472.4310

B. W. Chumney, 1309 Woodmore Drive, NW, Cleveland, TN 37311

Ron Couch (Joyce), 82 Banton Avenue, Eugene, OR 97404  
Phone 541.688.6458 E-mail: writer@vio.com

Carl Davis (Nellanne), 111 Country Club Dr., Pineville, LA 71360-2603  
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Phone 770.263.9438

Jack Edwards, 1607 Ewing Chapel Rd., Dacula, GA 30019-2627  
Phone 770.962.4776

Lyman E. Gray (Nan), 6869 Glenmeadow Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32311  
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Jim Gates (Barbara), 500 Holiday Circle, Pineville, LA 71360-5534  
Phone 318.442.6171

G. Stanley Gere (Patricia), 2218 Capehart Cr., NE, Atlanta, GA 30345  
Phone 404.634.3688

Isaac W. Hawkins (Becky), Route 1, Box 569, Chireno, TX 75937  
Phone 409.854.2344

Horace W. Landrith (Shirley), P. O. Box 1148, Seneca, SC 29679  
Phone 864.885.0467

Larry D. Martoglio (Anna), 211 Calmes Blvd., Winchester, KY 40391-8707

Stephen (Helga) McCorquodale, 449 McCorquodale Rd, Longville, LA  
Phone 318.725.6874

Robert Minor (Betty), 3110 Gardenia St., Golden, CO 80401-1454

Roger Mizell (Maxine), 3967 Pin Oak Circle, Doraville, GA 30340  
Phone 404.448.6032

Dale L. Rapin (Lorraine), 345 Royal Oak Terrace, Stone Mountain, GA  
30087-2618 Phone 770.923.5383

Milton D. Ray (Adelle), 6406 Manship Road, Brandon, MS 39042

Joyce F. Slater (Ted), 195 Robin Hood Rd., Dry Prong, LA 71423

E-mail addresses:

Pat Int-Hout - PINTHOUT@AOL.COM

Claude Moody - claudej@aol.com

Chuck Steele - hichuck@IBM.net

Please make the following changes to your directory (underscoring indicates change):

Clara M. Francis, 3535 Kirby Road, Apt A-422, Memphis, TN 38115-3710

Don Gerred, 63 CR 231, Oxford, MS 38655

Lew Grosenbaugh, phone 352.373.8285

Carl Hoover, phone 501.562.0196

Don Hughes, phone 941.629.1534

Pat Int-Hout, Elsie, 1519 4th St. Wenatchee, WA 98801

Edward Manchester, 209 Ranger Hill, Murphy, NC 28906

Claude Moody, phone 334.279.8740

Bob Potter, phone 336.998.7047

Lucy Qualls, 6920 Meadow Park So., No. Richland Hills, TX 76180

Jim Webb, phone 828.628.4365

Winston Smith, 1475 Holly Manor Dr., Loganville, GA 30052-5125  
Phone 770.736.6804

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### TRIBUTE TO A REAL GENTLEMAN

I noticed in the last *Dixie Ranger* that Phil Newton had died. Phil was one of my favorite Forest Service people. In 1964 I was the assistant ranger on the old Oxford RD, Holly Springs NF in Mississippi. One day out of the blue came a letter saying that I had been assigned to the Supervisor's Office in South Carolina as a Tree Improvement Forester. My duty station was Moncks Corner, SC. First thing I did was get out a map and find Moncks Corner. The next thing I did was call Phil Newton, my new boss, and ask what a tree improvement forester was. Phil didn't rightly know but said it had to do with seed orchards and to come on anyhow. Besides, Tom Swofford was going to tell me everything I needed to know. After talking to Phil I couldn't help but feel good, even if I was still ignorant.

Elaine, one child, and I arrived in Moncks Corner and settled in. It was one of the best duty stations we ever had. First day on the job Ollie Buckles led me through the new Francis Marion Seed Orchard. It was a field of mud and stumps. Phil showed up shortly, stood on the road and looked sad. I remember saying something like "Do you want to walk over the orchard site?" Phil said, "No", he could see all he wanted to from the road. He never liked to get his feet wet when he didn't have to. On those humid coastal mornings, almost every day on the Francis Marion, we would wait until the dew dried off the grass before venturing out.

For the rest of my tour as a tree improvement forester, over five years, it was much the same. I would ask Phil what to do or if it was OK to do such and such and Phil would look sad and say "Its never been done this way before, but go ahead." And we did.

Tree improvement was new and innovative. Phil Newton had the wisdom and common sense to let us run with it but still kept us within all the rules and regulations of a federal agency. I never knew Phil to get angry or upset, even when I came up with a hair-brained scheme or confessed to some misadventure, although he did

look sad at times. Phil had his own opinion of some of the movers and shakers in the Forest Service and I remember being rather dumb-struck to hear what he thought of some of them. That's when I learned they weren't God or in some cases very smart people. Phil was a good friend, a fine gentleman, and we will miss him. The world needs more people like Phil Newton.

— Jim McConnell

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What's happening in and around the Region:

Marsha Kearney, a native Floridian, has taken over the reins as head of the National Forests in Florida. Mrs. Kearney previously served as staff officer for natural resources on the Pike & San Isabel NF in Pueblo, CO.

Karl Siderits is now Forest Supervisor of the NFs in Mississippi.

Lynn Neff who's headed the Ozark-St. Francis NFs in Arkansas is now the Forest Supervisor of the Kisatchie NF.

Jim Perdue, Deputy Regional Forester for State & Private Forestry, has accepted the Project Leader position in Inventory Programs with the Southern Station.

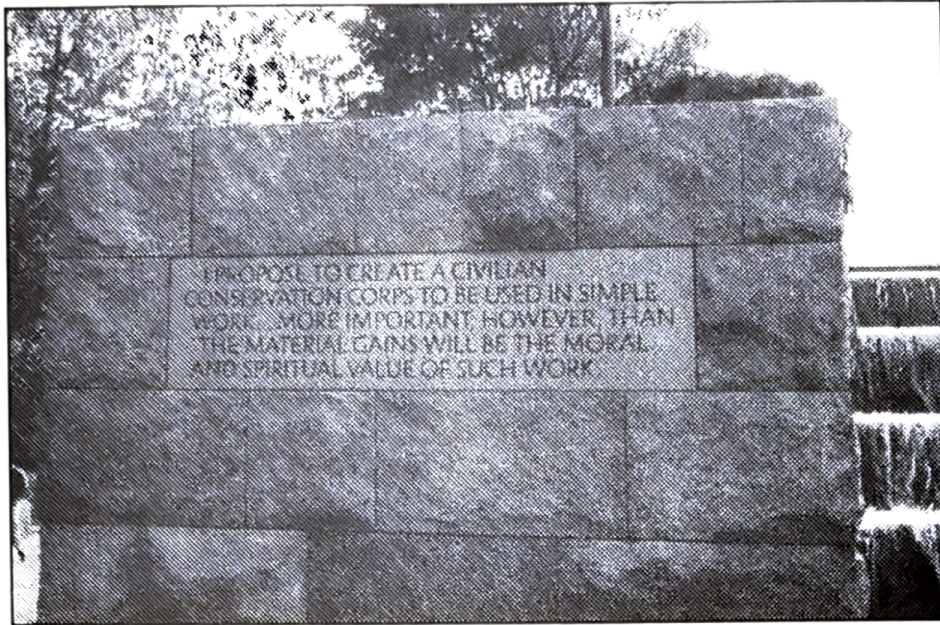
R. Lynn Marsalis, a recent retiree from the NFs in Mississippi, has been appointed the new coordinator for emergency services in Vicksburg and Warren County. Lynn was retired for only 15 days when he accepted this position. His background as a fire management officer placed him at the top of the list for consideration.

Last August a giant tulip poplar tree was dedicated to the memory of Bob Padgett who served for many years as the District Ranger at Highlands, NC, and was instrumental in saving the tree.

Ruth and Sam Johnson, Atlanta, GA, attended the National Wildlife Federation's 1998 annual meeting and the President's Reception in Alexandria, VA.

Howard Burnett, Deale, MD, took the picture (next page) of the plaque at the new Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C. FDR's reference to the CCC's may be of some interest to some fellow retirees who have roots to that program. In spite of FDR's statement, many of the CCC projects turned out to be not so "simple" after all. Those of us who came later benefited greatly from the pool of talent of people trained by the CCC's who were the Forest Technicians and C&M foremen on many of the Ranger Districts in the 50's, 60's, and 70's. They knew how to do practical things.

supervise workers, and get things done. There are many great stories and memories about those guys and my hat is off to them. The CCC's was a program that met FDR's stated objective, and worked.



Inscription reads "*I propose to create a civilian conservation corps to be used in simple work. More important, however, than the material gains will be the moral and spiritual value of such work.*"

**In the next issue:**

Bringing Prescribed Fire to Southern Appalachian Forests by Don Peterson.

Excerpts from *Excelsior: Memoir of a Forester* by Laurence C. Walker, first dean of the School of Forestry, Stephen F. Austin College. Printed with permission.

Re-starting a Rusty Engine by Bob Neelands. (Postponed from May issue.

☆ ☆ ☆

*"Do not follow where the path may lead...Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."*

—Unknown

## MORITORIUM ON ROADS

On January 28, Chief Mike Dombeck signed the proposal to temporarily suspend road construction and reconstruction in most roadless areas of the National Forest System. The intended effect is to safeguard the significant ecological values of roadless areas from potentially adverse effects associated with road construction, while new and improved analytical tools are developed to evaluate the impact of locating and constructing roads. The suspension would expire upon the application of new and improved analysis tools or 18 months, whichever is sooner.

The moratorium would apply to roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more inventoried in RARE II and other unroaded areas, regardless of size, identified in a forest plan; unroaded areas greater than 1,000 acres adjacent to congressionally-designated wilderness or the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System classified as "Wild", and all unroaded areas greater than 1,000 acres bordering roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more on other federal lands. The moratorium also applies to two other categories: (1) any NFS area of low-density road development or (2) any other NFS area that retains its roadless characteristics which the Regional Forester subsequently determines have such special and unique ecological characteristics or social values that no road construction or reconstruction should proceed.

Four categories are exempt: (1) Roadless areas within NFs that have a signed Record of Decision revising their forest plans and have completed the administrative appeal process. (2) Roadless areas within NFs that have a signed Record of Decision revising their forest plans on which the administrative appeal process is underway, but not completed. (3) Roadless areas in Washington, Oregon, and California within the Northwest Forest Plan, and (4) road construction and reconstruction in roadless areas needed for public safety or to ensure access to private lands.

The public comment period ended March 30.

Regional Forester Estill, and all affected Forest Supervisors in Region 8, elected to halt any new road construction activities in roadless areas until additional guidance is provided.

The final interim rule on this suspension is expected to be issued in June. In Region 8, this area included the Southern Appalachian Assessment Roadless Area Inventory and all RARE II areas within the Region as identified in the RARE II EIS documents with some exceptions. Those exceptions are the NFs in Texas, George Washington, Francis Marion, and Caribbean because each of these Forests have completed their Forest Plan revisions.



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A REMINDER

Please phone in your reservations to the Brays or Peaches Sherman no later than June 9 for the luncheon on June 11. See page 4 for phone numbers.

Table of Contents

Reunion 2000 . . . . .	4
Luncheon . . . . .	4
Look - New Message . . . . .	5
The Birth of a Fire Break Plow . . . . .	6
Letters from Members . . . . .	7
Welcome New Members . . . . .	11
What's Happening . . . . .	14
Moratorium on Roads . . . . .	16
Membership Application . . . . .	17