



DIRECTORY ENCLOSED

## THE DIXIE RANGER

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### President's Corner

There is an old saying: "the only thing constant is change." Personally, I am a creature of habit and do not particularly care for change. So, when I became President of our retirees association, I resolved not to propose to amend the bylaws of our organization. To me, it just seems to create only the appearance of doing something. But, as President, I thought it was my duty to at least read the bylaws.

That is when I found out that we do not actually have any bylaws (though we could). Instead, we have a Constitution that has been amended eleven times during the last 39 years. I gave a copy of our Constitution to our new Vice President/President-elect, Sid Haggard, and, like a responsible officer, he read it.

That is when it happened. According to our Constitution, one of the definitions of a member is that the member must be "a retiree from employment from the Forest Service." Even though Sid had worked for the Forest Service for 18 years, including time in the Southern Region, Region 3 and the Washington Office, he later transferred to another Department agency and then retired from there. Fortunately, our Constitution also defined a member as "a retiree who may have worked in some other Region but who at one time worked in the South." So, my own liberal interpretation of this definition would include Sid. However, the Constitution seemed to imply that a member must be retired from the Forest Service.

So, this got me to thinking about some of our other long time, dues-paying members. According to our Constitution, anyone who retired from the Washington Office does not specifically qualify for membership! I do not believe this was the intention of the original framers of our organization's Constitution. This present dilemma led to some lively conversations via e-mail among a few of our fellow officers, and the consensus of opinions seemed to indicate that we do need to revisit our definitions of membership. We do want to include retirees that have worked for the Forest Service in the Southern Region, even if they moved on to the Washington Office, or ultimately retired from another agency.

Well, so much for resolutions. Alas, change is constant.

*Larry Bishop*

President 2010-2012

"A government big enough to give you everything you want, is big enough to take away everything you have."

Thomas Jefferson

## DECEMBER 2009 LUNCHEON - MEETING

At the Board meeting prior to lunch, nominations for officers and directors were named. The new slate of nominees were to be voted on at the meeting following our luncheon speaker. Jerry Coutant suggested two new books about the Forest Service which would make good reading. He especially liked one titled, "The Big Burn". Jim McConnell made a motion that past presidents, from now on, be given a lifetime membership to the Association, effective immediately. President Kruglewicz made a motion to limit it to 10 years, and the motion passed unanimously.

Following lunch, Vice-president Larry Bishop introduced the featured speaker, Jerome Thomas, R-8 Deputy Regional Forester for Natural Resources since May, 2009. Also introduced were the four Resource Management Directors who attended: Thurman Harp, Lands, Minerals & Uses Unit; Chris Leggett, Planning Unit; Stephanie Johnson, Public Affairs Unit, and Andy Colligno, RIM Unit. Deputy Thomas' topic was **What is the Region doing in Natural Resource Management?**

Deputy Thomas said that his new position is very challenging. What are the Region's priorities? Restore, Protect and Respond. In partnership with state agencies, restoration is going well, showing tremendous growth in Long Leaf Pine restoration. Current work on Southern applications.....species and stream restoration and Indian creek restoration is also going well. Protect: Law Enforcement - the Region is making big strides in forest health. Respond: A challenge with climate change....buffer forests and water.

Following Deputy Thomas' Question and Answer session, business was conducted beginning with the list of candidates for new officers presented by the Nominating Committee which consisted of Nancy Sorrells, Dave Jolly, and Mike Sparks. The new officers were nominated for two-year terms and were approved by the member attendees. They are **Larry Bishop - President; Sid Haggard - Vice President; Sonny Cudabac - Secretary; Tom Tibbs - Treasurer; Jim McConnell - Historian; Vickie Sell - 2012 Director; and Jean Kruglewicz - Ex-Officio** (out going president). Dave and Peggy Jolly will continue as Co-Editors of *The Dixie Ranger*, with Jim McConnell collecting and preparing the obituaries for the **IN MEMORIAM** section. Continuing Board Members are Clair Redman, 2011 and Bob James, 2010. Ralph Mumme is the R-8 member of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees Board.

Joyce Keith and Nancy Sorrells passed out door prizes which were selected by Joyce. These included several handcrafted wooden pens which were made and donated by Lee Cromley. Mary Ann Burns won *The Dixie Ranger's* one-year free SFSRA dues.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2010 LUNCHEONS – Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

We continue to meet at the Petite Auberge Restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center, 2935 North Druid Hills Road, Atlanta. We gather at 11:30 am for fellowship and lunch is served at 12:00 noon. The cost of the meal is \$13 per person. Reservations must be made no later than Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Call either Nancy Sorrells at (770) 469-5799 or Joyce Keith at (770) 277-5841. Leave a message on their answering machine if you do not reach one of them. Also, it is important to let either Nancy or Joyce know if you find that you are unable to attend after you have made a reservation. **We are charged for the number of reservations turned in the day before** the luncheon. In December we were charged for six people who made reservations but didn't attend.

Speaker for the June luncheon is Jim Rogers who will talk about the role of the Forest Service in the debris recovery of the space shuttle Columbia.



## LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

**Mary Maher** - Georgia - Mary writes to all her Forest Service friends: I would like to thank all my friends in the agency for their outpouring of support for me during my continued rehabilitation from my five back operations. It's an ongoing process - some days are very good and that keeps my spirit going. All your cards and calls have meant so much to me. I truly love you all!

**Douglas Shenkyr** - Maryland - Sorry I let my dues slip so much. Enclosed is a check which should bring me up-to-date. Macular Degeneration has limited my activities pretty much. Our travels are primarily to doctors, grocery stores and to church. My faithful secretary of 63 plus years is writing this note for me. I enjoyed the pictures in the last issue of *The Dixie Ranger*. Some of the guys I went to school with and some were neighboring Rangers back in Arkansas.

**Bernadette Shenkyr** adds a P.S.: Even with his problems, he extended his garden again this year and we pickled hot peppers he grew..... supplied the neighbors with produce from the garden - tomatoes, radishes, onions, peppers, corn and zucchini. Needless to say, I baked zucchini bread and shared. Also, he still mowed the yard and raked the Fall leaves!

**Dave Larson** - Georgia - Here's my check for another year. Was my copy of the *Dixie Ranger* the only one with a totally black photo on page 19? The excerpt from Don Ashworth's autobiography brought back some of my experiences with air travel. The most frightening was a trip on a Forest Service plane returning to Atlanta from Florida on a Friday. We ran into a terrible storm and everything Don described happened to our plane. The only differences, there was no co-pilot and the plane was about half the size of Don's plane. I thought we were goners. We out flew the storm and landed safely in Atlanta. This same storm caused another plane to crash. Three or four days later, this same Forest Service plane crashed killing two pilots. Makes one wonder. I read *The Dixie Ranger* cover to cover the minute it arrives. Still recognize a few names after being retired almost 30 years.

**Roger Mizell** - South Carolina - Roger's daughter, Francie, writes: My parents are continuing to manage Dad's care at home. They got a Honda Odyssey van, with wheelchair conversion, this summer which has given them the freedom to take short outings. They also are enjoying a nice backyard deck that makes it much easier for Dad to be outside. Your cards and calls mean so much to them. Thanks!

**David Dubow** - Georgia - At our recent Christmas meeting, I was sitting next to A. P. Mustian and his wife. They had come all the way from North Carolina yet nobody mentioned them. I probably should have done it, since I have known A. P. Since the late 1940's. He was a couple of years ahead of me at N.C. State, but we had some classes together. A. P. worked in several places in Region 8 including Louisiana, Florida and the Regional Office. He was a staff officer in Tallahassee under the famous Joe Riebold (Father of even-aged management). Later A. P. was Silviculture Branch Chief in Atlanta. (The Father of our late, great Tree Improvement Program.) From here he served as Deputy Director of Timber Management in the Washington Office until his retirement in the 1980's. A. P. was an outstanding member of the U.S. Forest Service. However, he was never one to toot his own horn. He also is a member of the fast-declining "Great Generation" having been badly wounded while fighting the Nazis in the European Theater. He is the type of person who made the U.S. Forest Service a once highly-regarded organization.

**Jim Crouch** - Arkansas - Thank you for your service! I retired in '87 and for the last 20+ years have had a very active consulting business. Primary focus on wood supply issues for the forest industry. Good wishes to everyone.

**Ray Johnston** - Georgia - Attached is a check for two years of *The Dixie Ranger*. I appreciate all the work you do for the retirees. All is well for me. I have been retired 6 years. I still do a little consulting with the Forest Service and environmental consulting firms. I am still dealing with lymphoma but this will be a long-term effort. I am glad to see the Retirees Association so active and viable.

**Odom McDaniel, Jr.** - Oklahoma - Here's my check to cover two more years. I noticed in the November Dixie Ranger that Bill Hughes is among our new members. Bill and Kathy bought our house in Alexandria, AL when Dona and I moved from the Kistachie SO to the RO in Atlanta in 1974. Best wishes to Bill and Kathy.

**Ernest Finger** - Louisiana - Here are dues for the next couple of years. I think my pacemaker is good for that long and most of my other parts are working, but some just barely. There are no employees on the Kistachie now who were there when I was. But a couple of retirees passed on lately. Omer Carroum and Sammy Coutee. Omer and I worked on the Kistachie, actually I recruited him from Administrative Services in the RO. After Mildred passed on, he lived alone, but right up to his demise (at age 90), he drove his vehicle whenever and wherever he wanted. He came by to see us a couple of times in that many years. I called him about a month ago, and tho his speech was slurred, I understood what he said. He was lonesome - I hope and pray that he is lonesome no more.

Sammy's obit said he was a manager of something or other in the Forest Service. The Sammy I knew was a forest worker who liked to lean on his shovel and carry on some nonsense. One of the things they all (forest workers) would do was to bedevil the junior forester who was their supervisor. Actually, foresters learned a lot about how to apply schoolbook knowledge to the job-at-hand from them. They also learned not to accept everything they were told. One such junior forester, who later came back to the district as ranger, learned that poison ivy leaves are not a proper substitute for toilet paper. That poor forester got a bad case of the red a-, and I know he is kidded to this day about it. Those were the good old days!

**Jerry Rockett** - Virginia - Here are my dues for the next two years. Thank you both for your stellar work over the past years!

**John Courtenay** - Texas - Sorry I'm a little late. Keep *The Dixie Ranger* coming.

**Charles Blankenship** - Virginia - I'm behind with dues so here's my check for '09 and '10. Wednesday, December 9, 2009 was the bimonthly luncheon of the Jefferson National Forest retirees. Several former Forest Service employees also attended. They're members, often young women who left the USFS to raise families. Thirty-two of our folks showed up. We've been meeting for the last 19 years. It was a pleasure for the group to have Liz Belcher and Linda Obeslander there. Linda is a landscape architect recovering from multiple injuries resulting from a horseback accident. Linda is a tough, accomplished/competitive horse person who was riding a new horse, apparently one needing more breaking. Liz Belcher, a forester, now heads the nationally award-winning Greenway Program. She coordinates the Greenway efforts of the four local governments. She's quite a celebrity in our valley and in a job that must be like herding cats.

Jimmy Short and Doris attended with Jimmy serving as greeter and humorist. For those who have asked, Charlie Pozier was there with a bit of help from John Hinsicks. Many more should be



mentioned. We plan to send a picture soon. We voted to continue another year and I'll continue to be the contact.

**Glenn McConnell** - North Carolina - I find that I have overlooked paying my dues for the SFSRA. I thought I had better get caught up so that I will continue to receive the newsletter. It is always good to be able to keep up with the folks that have been a part of your life with the Forest Service. Linda and I continue to reside in Charlotte, North Carolina and are enjoying being part of our children and grandchildren's lives. The newsletter does a great service with keeping people in touch with current mail and e-mail addresses. I especially like Mike Sparks tales and adventures. Thanks for the great job you and others have done with the Retirees Association.

**Max Swilling** - Georgia - Here's my 2010 dues plus a couple more years. I'm optimistic that I'll be around then. My health is good and allows me to continue being the caregiver to my wife, Eleanor, who has MS. It has been my joy to be able to do this for 14 years since she took care of me for the first 30 years of our marriage.

I commend you folks on all that you do to keep us informed. Smart move you made in dividing up some of the administrative duties. Retirees don't have a lot of time on their hands - in most cases. Keep up the good work! Give my regards to those on the Jefferson who are involved in the aviation contracts, if you have any contact with them.

**Glenda Wood** - South Carolina - Thanks.....Look forward to another year's edition of *The Dixie Ranger*.

**Joyce Slayter** - Louisiana - Here is my check for three more years membership. I enjoy reading *The Dixie Ranger* and look forward to each issue. When the next directory is published, my e-mail address may be added.

**Jim Herd** - South Carolina - I appreciate everything you are doing for *The Dixie Ranger*, and us retirees. I enjoy reading the stories, but I must admit, many of the names are familiar, but I sure have a hard time knowing where I met or worked with some of them. Oh, the joy of growing old. I've enclosed a check for a few years, since I'm already a year behind. I've also enclosed an obit for a former Chatt-O Fire Staff Officer, Don Thorton who passed away Dec. 30, 2009. Keep up the good work. (Obituary is in IN MEMORIAM section.)

**Mac McConnell** - Florida - Dave Dubow's and Jack Godden's tales brought back some memories. Here's a clipping from the Cleveland Daily Banner, 01-18-65. Old timers will remember Gil Stradt, a fine no-nonsense supervisor, and timber beasts will recognize Ernest West and Clyde Murray. They ran peckerwood mills all over the south end of the Cherokee. They don't make jobs like that anymore. This clipping was sent to me by Pat Int-Hout a couple of years ago.

#### **10 Million Board Feet**

##### **Forest Timber Sale Purchased**

"Lumberman Clyde Murray of Cleveland and Ernest West, Tellico Plains, have purchased a 10 million board feet timber sale near Reliance in the Cherokee National Forest.

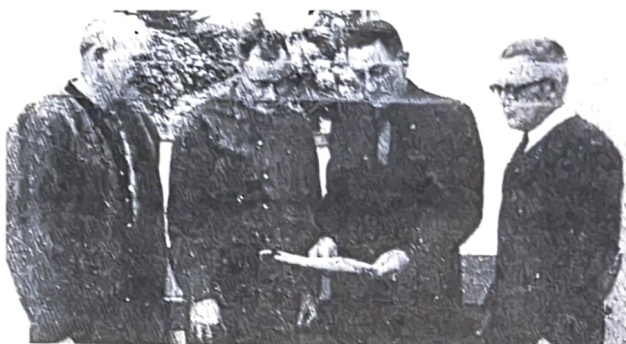
Forest Supervisor Gilbert Stradt announced today that the sale contract has been approved by the Acting Regional Forester of Atlanta, Ga., and cutting is under way.

The timber sale, largest ever made on the Cherokee National Forest, was designed to provide a base for equipment and sawmill improvement. The layout of the sale area provides the opportunity to log during the wet winter months when most mountain logging must shut down.

The two operators, both of whom have cut National Forest timber for many years, formed a new company – The Murray-West Lumber Co. They plan to process part of the timber in the woods with portable sawmills. Logs from other parts of the sale will be hauled to the Murray sawmill on Johnson Boulevard in Cleveland.

Pine lumber cut from the sale will be used to build houses, factories and other structures here in the rapidly growing East Tennessee area. Hardwood trees will provide ties and timbers, flooring and furniture stock for both local and regional industry.

Stradt said the logging and milling of this timber on this three-year sale will help provide a livelihood for some 40 families in Bradley, Monroe and Polk counties.”



TIMBER POWWOW—Purchasers of a record-breaking timber sale, Ernest West and Clyde Murray, discuss the sale contract with Forest Supervisor Gilbert Stradt and his timber management staff, W. V. McConnell.

**Jack and Jackie Gregory** - Georgia - Here are our dues for this year. Thank you Vickie Sell and “Big Ed” Cook for reminding us to sign up. Jackie and Jack continue to work at the SCUBA Shop located about 2 miles from the house. She splits her time between teaching SCUBA diving there and working in the climbing section at Recreational Equipment Inc (REI). Crazy Jack is the Lead Equipment Repair Tech at the Shop, maintaining SCUBA regulators and other life support equipment. What is wrong with this picture? Who in their right mind would allow Jack Gregory to work on other people's SCUBA equipment to begin with? To make matters worse, Jack's insanity has finally rubbed off on poor Jackie (coming up on 36 “official” years of togetherness) as both spend one week a month going cave diving in the fresh water springs of North Florida. Some of these locations are even on NFS lands! Dives typically last 2-3 hours with one-way penetrations from the cave entrance of up to 5000 ft. If all y'all want to keep up on all our antics (and see some pictures) go to: <http://www.diveshop1.com/stores/marietta/crew.php> and click on our names!

**Jim McNaughton** - Virginia - Here are dues for three more years so we won't miss *The Dixie Ranger*. You folks do a really great job putting it together. One thing that I've found helpful with remembering where folks worked, and when, is the old directories that I've saved over the years. (Ginger has tried to “toss them” more than once.) All is well in Virginia for now – lots of deep snow this year. That is unusual for us in Harrisonburg. I'm ready for Spring!

**Fred Foster** - South Carolina - Mary and I moved from Arden NC to Pickens SC last fall (2009). I'm sure I am behind in paying my dues for *The Dixie Ranger*. Thanks for taking care of this for us.

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Don't delete this just because it looks weird. Believe it or not, you can read it. – I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid. Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the first and last ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it wouthit a porbelm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh? We are akisng ouservles why snepd so mcuh tmie porfroadenig???



## IN MEMORIAM

Compiled by Jim McConnell

**Don Tomczak**, 56 of Ackworth, GA died suddenly while running on November 30, 2009. Throughout his adult life, Don loved to run, even though his doctors advised him against it. It was too risky because he suffered from a serious blood-clotting disorder. This did not deter him. He was a lifelong runner and marathoner, bicyclist, gardener and rapt student of life. Don graduated from the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana) with a degree in forestry. Then he began a 30-year career with the Forest Service. He became an expert on preservation of longleaf pine and of oak and chestnut in the Appalachian forests. Promoted in the Atlanta Regional Office in 1990, Don took charge of conservation and resource development for 13 southern states. He retired from the Forest Service in April 2008 after 30 years of service. Don is survived by his wife of 33 years, Phyllis, two daughters and two grandchildren.

**Omer D. Carroum**, 90, passed away on December 8, 2009 in Russellville, Arkansas. Funeral services were held in Russellville with burial in Smackover, Arkansas. He had been the Administrative Officer on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests sometime in the early 1980s and had also worked on the Kisatchie and in the Regional Office. Omer was a member of the SFSRA.

**Stan Adams**, 74, passed away on December 10, 2009 in Four Oaks, North Carolina after a long illness. He graduated from NC State University with a BS in Forest Management in 1957. Stan retired as Director, NC Division of Forest Resources this past Spring. During his 34-year career with the Forest Service, Stan worked on the Croatan NF in North Carolina, as District Ranger and Job Corps Center Director on the Ouachita NF in Oklahoma, in the Chief's Office in Washington DC, as Forest Supervisor on the George Washington NF in Virginia and as Director Office of Information in the Regional Office in Atlanta. He retired from the Forest Service in 1991 and accepted the position of State Forester in North Carolina where he served until 2006. Stan was an active member of the Izaak Walton League of America for 30 years, serving in many capacities, including national president. He was also active in the National Association of State Foresters and the Southern Group of State Foresters, serving as president of both. Other memberships include Society of American Foresters, American Forestry Association, NC Forestry Association, Forest Landowners Association, Public Relations Society of America and the NC Forestry Foundation. Stan served the forestry profession with distinction and was recognized throughout his career with many awards, including the Distinguished Alumni Award from NC State University, the Forest Service Golden Smokey Award and was named a SAF Fellow. The NC Chapter of the SAF is partnering with the NC Division of Forest Resources and the Forestry Foundation at NC State University establishing the Stanford M. Adams Scholarship Fund to assist students with SAF membership and tuition support. He was also a veteran who served his country in the US Navy. He is survived by his wife Ellen; son David of Raleigh, NC; daughter Deborah of Salt Lake City, Utah and four grandsons. Stan was a member of SFSRA.

**John W. Moser**, 83, died on December 14, 2009 in Cleveland, Tennessee. He was the Administrative Officer on the Cherokee National Forest for many years. John fell on October 20<sup>th</sup> and sustained a serious neck injury. He remained hospitalized until his death. John was a man who believed in commitment. He was committed to his marriage, family and the causes he supported. He was a graduate of Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, West Virginia. He loved this college and was recently inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at the college. (*Editor's Note:* John submitted a letter which we published in the "Letters from Member's" section of the November 2009 issue of *The Dixie Ranger*. In addition to the information on his induction to the Hall of Fame, he mentioned that he had been retired 26+ years.) John was in the Navy in World War II and served on a destroyer. He was



involved in many civic activities, working with the Boy Scouts, his church and many other charitable activities. He was cremated and his ashes interred at the Veterans War Memorial in Bushnell, Florida. John's wife Leone died several years ago. He was a member of the SFSRA.

**Don L. Thornton**, 84, passed away on December 29, 2009 in Seneca, South Carolina. Don was a native of Pontiac, Michigan. He was a retired ranger for the U.S. Forest Service. Early in his career, his work took him to Stumphouse Mountain as Ranger on the Andrew Pickens District. It was here that he experienced some of his best times. Later those memories brought him back to retire in the Walhalla area. Don was a World War II veteran of the Army Air Force. He enjoyed woodworking, radio-controlled airplanes, fishing and playing poker with his buddies. He is survived by his wife Ann, two sons, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Don was a member of the SFSRA.

**Eli "Joe" Geaquinto**, 84, died January 3, 2010 in Tucker, Georgia. Joe was a Christmas gift to his parents, as he was born in New York City on December 25, 1925. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944 and served two years on submarines. Joe married his wife Helen in 1950 and they were married for 59 years. In 1952 he received his BS in Forestry from Syracuse University. Later, in 1970-79, Joe attended the University of Georgia and received both a MS and PhD in Public Administration. Joe's Forest Service career began in 1952 as a forester in the district office in Franklin, NC. He served on districts in Hattiesburg, MS; St. Augustine, TX and Crockett, TX and in the Supervisors Office in Asheville, NC. His last move was in 1970 to Range and Timber Management In Atlanta. Joe and Helen were ready to stop moving. He retired from the Forest Service in 1980. However, Joe was not ready to sit down and rest. He had a number of odd jobs, including one with the Gwinnett County Housing Authority. Joe had been in declining health since he fell two years ago. A memorial service was held on Jan 23, 2010 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Atlanta. He was a member of the SFSRA.

**Shirley Woodall**, 62, wife of Woody Woodhall for 38 years, passed away November 25 in Prattville, Alabama. In addition to her husband, Shirley is survived by daughters Erin and Becca and son Rick. Woody is a member of the SFSRA.

**Cecil Tackett**, 87, passed away on December 26, 2009 in Hot Springs Arkansas. In 1943 Cecil made two very important decisions - first to wed Validee the love of his life and then to answer the call of Uncle Sam to go to war. He took up the sword in defense of his country and entered the U.S. Army. While serving on the island of Bougainville, one of the Solomon Islands, Cecil was severely wounded by a mortar round. He was awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his service. The remainder of Cecil's enlistment was spent aboard a hospital ship in the Pacific and at an army hospital in Texas. After he was discharged from the army in 1945, Cecil attended the University of Arkansas and received a degree in Vocational Agriculture. He spent several years teaching this to returning veterans. In the late 1950s he began working with the Forest Service. Cecil spent much of his time teaching Vocational Training to students at the Ouachita Job Corps Center in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He retired in 1979, after 20 years with the Forest Service. Cecil loved to fish. He knew all the best fishing spots, what gear to use and was always eager to teach people how to fish. He very seldom returned home without his limit of fish, and he always shared his catch with friends and neighbors.

**Charles R. Shields**, 71, of Glenwood, Arkansas, passed away February 19, 2010. He was a forestry graduate of the University of Arkansas in Monticello, a former district ranger for the U.S. Forest Service and retired owner and operator of Shields Lumber Company in Glenwood. Charles is survived by his wife Sharon; daughter Kris; son Ritchie; stepson Nick; seven grandchildren and his mother.



**Art Cowley**, 77, died March 4, 2010 in San Juan Capistrano, California. Art was known as a US Forester, Environmental Educator and Big Tree Expert. He received a BS Degree in Forestry from the University of Missouri and a Masters in Education from the University of Arkansas. Art worked for the Forest Service for 35 years, where he was a forest ranger and held management positions in Public Affairs and Environmental Education. He worked for the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests in Idaho, the Francis Marion Forest in South Carolina, the Ouachita National Forest in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and the Sequoia National Forest in Porterville, California. Since 1995, Art was State Coordinator for the American Forests' California Registry of Big Trees, where he traveled throughout California at his own expense in search of arboreal giants and found 190 of the state's 318 Biggest Trees. In 1998, while attending mass at the historic Carmel Mission, Art identified what became a state champion, a Blue Gum Eucalyptus, on Clint Eastwood's Mission Ranch property. In December 2002, Art said that the "major landmark" of his career was planning the Trail of 100 Giants for the Sequoia National Forest. This popular interpretive trail winds through old-growth Giant Sequoias, some of the biggest trees on earth. Since 2005, Art was a patient in one of the nation's most promising clinical trials for Alzheimer's, Elan Pharmaceutical's AAB001 Clinical Trial, and dedicated four years helping further research for this disease. Surviving him are his wife of 48 years, Maureen, and their four children: Mary Takaoka, Camille Newton, Jane von Bothmer and Arthur Ian Cowley; seven grandchildren; brothers John and Jim Cowley; and sisters Janet Schwering and Roberta Selvidge.

**Chuck Glover**, husband of former Forest Service employee, Vicki Glover, passed away unexpectedly on the first weekend in March, 2009. He and Vicki had been married for 43 years and had recently retired, together, from the Park Service. Prior to her service on the Chattahoochee-Oconee, Vicki was on the Francis Marion & Sumter NF in South Carolina where she was the forest supervisor's secretary/administrative assistant.

#### **Other Deaths of Interest – A Place in Forest Service History**

**Ed Cooley**, 98, died in Missoula, Montana on November 9, 2009. Ed is recognized, along with Rufus Robinson, as one of two smoke jumpers making the first operational jump into a forest fire. It occurred near Marten Creek in the Nez Perce National Forest in Idaho on July 12, 1940. "We didn't know what we were doing," Ed told the Associated Press in 2000. He later went on to make 48 more jumps. In 1949, he was aboard the C-47 plane from which a dozen smoke jumpers jumped on the Mann Gulch fire near Helena, Montana. He was a spotter, the man who found the landing site and tapped each jumper on the left calf to alert him it was time to go. The firefighters landed safely, their additional equipment fell to the ground, so Ed and the plane went back to the base. But the fire "blew up" and overran the men in what became the Forest Service's biggest tragedy until the 1994 South Canyon Fire in Colorado. He retired from the Forest Service in 1975 after having been a district ranger and superintendent of the smoke jumper base in Missoula.

**Mary Barr**, 85, died on March 1, 2010 in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1974 Mary Barr became the first woman pilot with the Forest Service. She was also the first woman smoke jumper and she is recognized in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. During her career with the Forest Service she worked in the Regional Office in San Francisco, as Aviation Safety Officer and went from there to the WO as National FS Aviation Safety Officer before returning to California where she was Regional Aviation Officer in Sacramento until she retired. Mary's exploits in the Forest Service are pretty amazing when you consider the era in which she worked for the agency. Her husband, Dave, died while she was working in the WO.



**Christopher Arby Upton**, age 37, who was on a routine patrol Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, in the Ocmulgee Bluff Equestrian Recreation Area of the Oconee National Forest was shot by a hunter who apparently mistook him for a coyote. The incident happened about 11 pm. Norman Hale, 40, was hunting coyote with another man when he shot Upton. The two called 911 and reported the shooting but Upton died at the scene. Upton was a 4-year veteran of the USFS and had previously worked as a game warden for the US Marine Corps, in Bufort, South Carolina and as a conservation officer, game warden and pilot for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. He is survived by his wife and a 4-year old daughter.

As reported in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution: The US Forest Service and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources are investigating the shooting death of a ranger killed in an apparent hunting accident.

**Cecil Tackett** remembered by *Marq Webb...(Bubba)*: I remember Cecil well. He was the Range Tech in the SO when I was on the Caddo Ranger District in 78-79. Since I was the ORA and had the range program as one of my responsibilities, Cecil came out to help me determine forage availability, as I had no previous range experience. Between plots we talked fishing and before long we worked up a fishing trip. Cecil was amazing. I only fished with him twice, but we limited out both times. Once on bass and once on trout. His boat was in the shop, so we went in mine. He was the pro and quickly became the captain of my boat, which I did not mind, because it was clear he knew what he was doing. Fun times I will never forget.

*Robert Mitchell, retired Mena Ranger, Ouachita National Forest remembers*: As you may recall, Cecil worked in the SO for a year or so before his retirement. He and I worked together for Dave Urbston in the wildlife and range section. Besides liking to fish, Cecil also liked to hunt deer. He and I always did the leg work for Dave for the annual Ouachita NF deer hunt, as well as the annual fishing tournament on Lake Ouachita. I remember Cecil most for his dry wit and love for practical jokes and story telling. He was a good friend and dedicated worker. One particular story that I remember was at one of the Forest deer camps in Muddy Creek on the Oden RD. It was a really dry fall and nobody had killed a deer by the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> day or so. Cecil was serving a rotation as camp cook on the 6<sup>th</sup> day and was about the only person left in camp, except for a few late-night poker players who were sleeping in. The way Cecil relayed the story to me went like this....."he had just finished cleaning the cast iron skillet and was going out behind the camp a couple of 100 ft. for his morning constitution at the camp privy. He said he had just achieved a comfortable position over the privy trench when he heard something moving about 100 ft in the woods directly in front of him. He then saw a nice 8-point buck walk out into a small opening and stop. He said the buck was looking right at him, but the wind was right and Cecil didn't move even though his legs were starting to cramp up from his squatting position. Cecil said that the buck finally turned his head and looked the other direction and Cecil picked up his rifle and shot the deer without ever changing positions. Since he was squatting when he fired his rifle, the recoil made him topple backward into a sitting position right in the middle of the trench. Laughing, Cecil said he had been trained in the army how to shoot from a squatting position, but never with his pants down!" Cecil and I both laughed so hard while he relayed that story that we both could hardly breathe. Cecil said that the only reason that he had taken his rifle with him to the privy was due to habit from his combat days in the military when you didn't dare go anywhere without taking your rifle. For several days that deer season, Cecil was the only one that killed a deer and a lot of the guys, particularly Wayne Kelly, teased him about having it staked out so he could brag about how easy it was to kill a deer without really trying. Cecil was a fine man. I'll remember him fondly.

**John Moser** remembered by *Bill Hess*: I first met John at a Ranger/Supervisor meeting in Knoxville about 1968 when John arrived as the new Administrative Officer on the Cherokee. WOW – what a dynamic guy – full of life and vigor. John was a cut-up always joking and talking to everybody.



Whenever a memo would come across his desk for action, John would jump on it right away. He never seemed to have an in- basket that was loaded with work, but he did a lot of work. John was always involved in many community affairs in Cleveland and was a believer that people should know what the Forest Service was about. He was the motivator in getting a new Supervisor's Office in Cleveland. John was a strong Scout leader and was well known for the many efforts with the Scouts and his involvement with his church. John loved playing bridge and had a fantastic memory for cards. He was devoted to his wife and family. He was always willing to help people, especially in charitable activities. You could always count on John. He was a real asset, friend and will be missed.

**Art Cowley** remembered by *Jim Wenner*:: Art was recreation assistant on the Ouachita when I arrived in 1970. His notable achievements here included the 200-mile Ouachita Trail - concept planning, cooperation with the State and initial construction, a successful environmental education program with college-credit courses for school teachers in Arkansas and Oklahoma (Bob Laval did a big part at Kerr Arboretum), and administration of the recreation program. He convinced the Ouachita NF that an illustrator would help the Public Affairs Program; he introduced me to Faith Skoog and recommended we hire her. Art transferred to Porterville, CA in late 1970 to be Public Affairs Staff Officer on the Sequoia National Forest with Supervisor Joe Brown (yes, the same Joe Brown who was once Oden District Ranger and Deputy Forest Supervisor of the Ozark-St. Francis NF). After retirement, Art became California's Big Tree Coordinator. He traveled the states from Oregon to Mexico, identifying over 100 tree species and documenting the existence of over 250 species. He warded off the worst effects of Alzheimer's Disease for several years, but finally had to move to a care facility.

### **"I'm Fired!"**

#### **Forester Gifford Pinchot Fired by President William Howard Taft 100 Years Ago**

On January 7, 1910, a messenger delivered a letter from President William Howard Taft to Gifford Pinchot at the family home in Washington, DC. In this letter, Taft had written: "By your own conduct you have betrayed your usefulness as a helpful subordinate of the government." Pinchot's official leadership of the U.S. Forest Service that he and President Theodore Roosevelt founded five years before was over.

The founding Forester read the letter and said to his mother. "I'm fired." "Hurrah!" she exclaimed, the suspense over at last. Pinchot's enemies celebrated. His rangers mourned. And his partner in conservation, former President Theodore Roosevelt on safari in Africa, was angered.

Pinchot's crime? Insubordination. He'd spoken out publicly against corruption in the administration that President Taft's weak leadership had allowed to flourish.

Les Joslin, Old Smokey's Newsletter, Winter 2010

"Always do right. This will gratify some and astonish the rest."

– Mark Twain

"Good timber does not grow with ease, the stronger the wind, the stronger the trees."

– J. Willard Marriott

Mary Ann Burns sent in the following two photographs -



**Forest Service Gals on a Show-Me Trip**

Front Row, left-right: Agnes Morgan, Mary Ann Burns, Nancy Bush, UNIDENTIFIED, Carol Piper, Joyce Keith, UNIDENTIFIED - Second Row: Karen Sheppard, Dorothy Barrett, Marina Thomas, Frances Stewart...

**How many others can you identify?**



**Cooperative Forestry Meeting at Stone Mountain**

Front Row, left-right: Otis Jones, Seed Lab Director, Ham Williston, Bob Hill, Keith Utz  
Back Row, left-right: Bill Balmer, Chuck Lantz, Frank Shropshire, Nathan Byrd, George Brooks, Bob Nobles



**Arkansas Retirees Christmas Luncheon - Hot Springs**



Norman Wagoner, Rex Woodson, Mike Curran,  
Norman Alley, John and Polly Orr



Polly Orr, Wanette Guthrie,  
Wallace Ford, Nancy Urbston



Norm & Mrs. Wagoner, Jim Wenner, John Long  
Nick Finzer, Dave Ham



Bill Walker



Doris Wenner, Peggy Daley

**Atlanta Area Retirees Christmas Luncheon - Dec 3, 2009**



Jeanette and Sid Haggard, John Allen



Nancy Sorrells, A P. and Gussie Muslian



Winston Smith and Malcolm Gramley



Fred and Sara Gwinn



Nancy & Pete Avers, Sonny Cudabac, Della & Sam Halverson



Ben Cobb, Ann & Tom Tibbs

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**CHARLES B. AULDS (BILLIE)**  
243 Wilson Heights Circle NE  
Cleveland, TN 37312-6787  
Phone: (423) 336-2327  
E-Mail: [cbaulds@charter.net](mailto:cbaulds@charter.net)  
USFS Region 8

**JIM COVINGTON (BERONICA)**  
1815 Jenny Drive  
Prattville, AL 36066  
Phone: (334) 365-6632  
E-Mail: [covingtonpb@aol.com](mailto:covingtonpb@aol.com)  
SO - National Forests in AL

**JACK GREGORY (JACKIE)**  
3275 Hichborne Circle  
Marietta, GA 30066-2442  
Phone: (770) 977-3460  
E-Mail: [jgregory@mindspring.com](mailto:jgregory@mindspring.com)  
WO LE&I - Located at R-8 RO

**JACKIE GREGORY (JACK)**  
3275 Hichborne Circle  
Marietta, GA 30066-2442  
Phone: (770) 977-3460  
E-Mail: [wildbluejackie@yahoo.com](mailto:wildbluejackie@yahoo.com)  
Region 8 RO

**LARRY MOORE, JR. (JACKIE)**  
487 Vandevere Road  
Yazoo City, MS 39194  
Phone: (662) 746-1778  
E-Mail: [lmoore\\_39194@yahoo.com](mailto:lmoore_39194@yahoo.com)  
Region 8 - Delta National Forest

All changes are incorporated into the new directory. Please check your information and let Tom Tibbs, our new Treasurer/Data Base Manager, know if there are any corrections to be made. His address is : Tom Tibbs, 627 Oak Lane, Marion, VA 24354 -- Phone: (276)783-2498  
E-Mail: [gtibbs6@embarqmail.com](mailto:gtibbs6@embarqmail.com)

**FYI:** Now that *The Dixie Ranger* publisher is labeling and mailing the newsletter directly, it's important that you check your address labels for the date when your membership expires. Without the extra handling which we previously did, we cannot add the red reminders on the labels. Remember, the date on your label is the year through which your dues are paid.

With the separation of duties for the Treasurer/Data Base Manager, Dixie Ranger Editors and Obituary preparation, you need to be aware of where to route your dues payments, change of address, new e-mail addresses, death notices, stories, articles, etc.

Dues, address and e-mail changes go to Tom Tibbs, 627 Oak Lane, Marion VA 24354

Death notices go to Jim McConnell, 3699 Wentworth LN, Lilburn GA 30047-2256

Any stories and articles you would like published in *The Dixie Ranger* still go to Dave & Peggy Jolly, 128 Wind Trace, Alexander City, AL 35010. **Keep your stories coming!!! They are the backbone of our newsletter.** Any notes, letters, etc. which you include with your dues payments to Tom Tibbs will be sent on to the Jollys. Tom, Jim and the Jollys will forward all changes and death notices to our Secretary, Sonny Cudabac, so that he can continue to communicate Forest Service retirements, activities, news, deaths, etc via his member's e-mail list and, most importantly, keep the list up-do-date.

These changes will greatly reduce our workload and make the association run much smoother. **Many thanks** to those who volunteered to help. Any suggestions you can offer to help in this effort will be appreciated.



With the transfer of the Treasurer's materials pending, Dave Jolly and former SFSRA President Jean Kruglewicz requested an audit of the financial records. SFSRA member, Ed Cook agreed to audit the books for the Association. He has completed the audit and all financial records are being transferred to the new Treasurer, Tom Tibbs.

**SOUTHERN FOREST SERVICE RETIREES ASSOCIATION  
2009 Financial Statement**

	<u>PROPOSED BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL COST</u>
Printing Newsletters	\$ 1950.00	\$ 1243.72
Mailing Permit/Postage	600.00	797.03
Door Prizes	223.00	245.98
Oral Histories/Interviews	250.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>300.00</u>	<u>904.38*</u>
	\$ 3323.00	\$ 3191.11
Luncheons		<u>1611.19</u>
Total Expenses		\$ 4802.30

\*Miscellaneous expenses include:

National Forest Service Museum Annual Donation - \$500

Forest History Society Annual Donation - \$250.

Dixie Ranger Supplies - \$124.38 and Luncheon Speakers' Lunches \$30

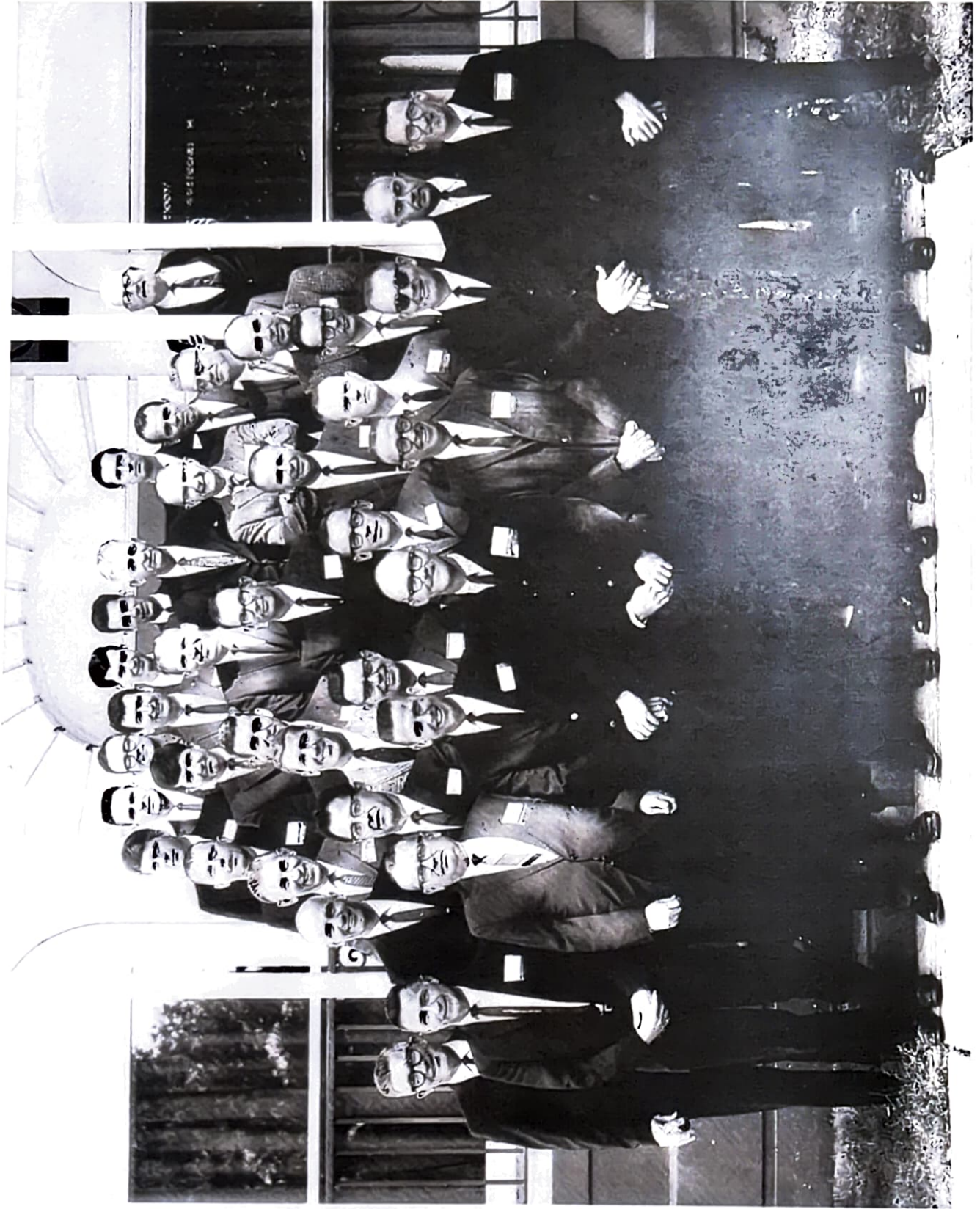
Carryover from 2008.....		\$ 8837.85
Income for 2009		
Dues	\$3700.00	
Interest	99.18	
Luncheons	1710.00	
Ov'ge fm luncheons	48.81	<u>5557.99</u>
	\$14395.84	
Less Expenses		<u>4802.30</u>
BALANCE FORWARD		\$ 9593.54

In the 1400s a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence, we have "the rule of thumb".

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Several of you inquired about the black photograph on page 19 of the November 2009 Dixie Ranger-seems there was some mysterious computer "glitch" when a change was made in another area of the newsletter. We don't understand what happened, but will try again. The photo on the following page was sent in by Harry Switzer. Attendees are: Front row, left to right: June Terry, Bert Bray, Russ Daley, Winston Smith, Vernon Robinson, Jack Boren, Gene Jackson, Jack Hambrick, Jim Brown, Al Pepper, Will Schowalter, John Olson, Bob Butler, Johnny Warnock, Bob Wirsching, Harry Rossoll, Tom Fair, Dave Jolly, Dale Robertson, Amel Landgraf, Cary Williams, Bill Padgett, Ron Terry, Joe Brown, Roland Treubig, Harry Collins, Dan Brown, Tom Price, Bob Hintz, Art Cowley, Forrest Carpenter, Ken Henderson, John Cooper, Harry Switzer, George Wasson and Bill Huber.

I&E Training Workshop in Alexandria, Louisiana - November 7-9 1967





## RETIREE GET-TOGETHERS

**Northeast Atlanta** - Retirees meet the last Tuesday of each month (except December) at Matthews Cafeteria in Tucker at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast. Spouses are welcome. The address is 2299 Main Street. The cafeteria is next to the railroad tracks. Main Street is in front of Tucker High School. If you get lost, just ask anyone - everyone in Tucker knows where Matthews Cafeteria is located.

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

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

**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 19 years. No dues are collected and only rarely are there programs or expressions of professional concerns. For information, contact Charles Blankenship at (540) 774-6272.

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

**Francis Marion & Sumpter National Forests** - Retirees meet the third Wednesday in April and October of each year. You may e-mail Vicki Scott at [cyberfogie@aol.com](mailto:cyberfogie@aol.com) or call Glenda Wood at (864) 445-4751 for further information.

**National Forests in Florida** - Annual reunion will be held on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Doe Lake Recreation Area on the Ocala National Forest. Retirees, spouses and friends are invited. For information contact Terri McDonald at [tmcd1663@aol.com](mailto:tmcd1663@aol.com) or (352) 625-1663.

These retiree gatherings are great photo opportunities. We look forward to receiving yours !!  
Also family celebrations, especially anniversaries – share your good times with SFSRA !!

### THE WEEKS ACT OF MARCH 1, 1911 A CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE AGES

by *Gordon Small*

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

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

The high water mark of their achievements was passed by Congress on March 1, 1911. The Weeks Act as it is known today was a new concept in this country. It was administered by a

fledgling Agency, and supported by individuals, conservation organizations, States and local governments. These eastern National Forests continue to grow in significance as our population grows and land use changes crowd out the open space that we once took for granted.

***Today, our country is often deeply divided by a host of issues, and progress seems almost impossible. What better time to celebrate what can be done when people of good will work together for a common goal. We now have a great opportunity to reflect on the legacy of the Weeks Act and its champions, and to capture forever this important legacy that began 100 years ago. Let us commemorate this landmark legislation and celebrate the accomplishments represented by our eastern National Forests.***

**Background:** As the 19<sup>th</sup> century drew to a close, the public attitude toward its public lands began to change. The national land policy, which had focused on quickly and easily placing public land into private hands, slowly evolved to maintain federal control over some lands. There were many reasons for the change, including graft and corruption in administration of the public land laws, concerns about special places, and the adverse consequences stemming from unrestrained exploitation of the natural resources. Early signs of this change in attitude included the Yellowstone National Park legislation in 1872 and the Forest Reserve Act of 1891. President Teddy Roosevelt, an ardent conservationist, created 194,505,000 acres of Forest Reserves (which were to become National Forests) by the end of his administration in 1909.

However, these actions involved setting aside or reserving what was already public land in the western United States for specific public purposes. There was no general authority for the federal government to establish National Forests on the privately owned lands in the eastern half of the country. As the harvesting of the old growth timber finished in the northeast and moved south, the effects of this activity became evident. There were major forest fires which intensified land erosion and flooding. Timber companies left the now cut-over land behind – taxes were often not paid and the lands became the property of the counties and states.

Conservation organizations (a new concept at the time) that had formed in the north and south worked hard to create National Forests in the east. The initial focus was on northern New England and the southern Appalachians, but support soon grew beyond these areas. President Theodore Roosevelt strongly supported a 1902 report to the Congress by the Secretary of Agriculture recommending the establishment of a National Forest Reserve in parts of the Southern Appalachians. The Forest Service, the State Geologist of North Carolina, The Appalachian National Forest Reserve Association, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, The Appalachian Mountain Club, The American Forestry Association, and many others worked tirelessly to establish National Forests in the northeast and southern Appalachians and beyond. They had to overcome a lukewarm reception in Congress and the strong objections of a few powerful members of Congress who felt they should not appropriate “one cent for scenery”.

As a result of strong public support, the Weeks Act of March 1, 1911 was passed with the leadership of Massachusetts Representative John W. Weeks. The act allowed the Government to purchase important private watershed land on the headwaters of navigable streams for the purpose of “conserving the navigability of navigable rivers.” This act is the reason that there are any eastern National Forests today. It also provided for cooperation with, and federal matching funds for, State forest fire protection agencies. This was the first time that direct Federal funding of non-Federal programs of any type was allowed, and the action expanded the responsibilities of the recently formed (1908) State and Private Forestry branch. Most importantly, this act set in motion



what many would recognize as the most significant conservation achievements in the history of the United States.

This legislation was only the beginning. The act required that a State had to pass enabling legislation before any land could be acquired within its boundaries. Appropriations had to be obtained, staffs developed and trained, and policies and safeguards put in place. The Weeks Act also established the National Forest Reservation Commission (NFRC) and any proposed purchase units. Each subsequent purchase had to be approved by this Congressional Commission.

State enabling legislation often required approval of various state entities. The Forest Service also made it a policy to obtain the approval of county officials before any land was acquired within their jurisdiction. There are many stories behind the establishment of every National Forest in the east.

On March 27, 1911, the Chief of the Forest Service submitted 13 proposed purchase units (lands identified as having areas within a specified boundary worthy of purchase) to the The National Forest Reservation Commission for approval. They approved 11 of these purchase units located in the White Mountains of New England and in the southern Appalachians.

While many more Purchase Units were established over the next 18 years, over half that were to become National Forests were established during the Great Depression. Forest lands were being abandoned for taxes and landowners were eager to sell. A local public, desiring any program that would bring federal investment to their area, along with many who wanted to see better conservation and a public land base for all the people, gave a continuing impetus to the establishment of National Forests in the east.

The creation of these National Forests was a wonder in itself. However, the job had just begun for the Forest Service. Many of these lands had been cut over, burned over, or farmed out. For the first time in its short history, the Agency now had the responsibility of restoring entire forested ecosystems across diverse landscapes. This included establishing effective fire control, stabilizing eroding areas, re-vegetating areas where fire and storms had removed much of the topsoil, planting trees, introducing professional forestry practices, dealing with trespass, controlling wild hogs, improving access to the public lands, creating and managing recreation facilities, inventories and management plans for the resources and infrastructure of these new units, and many other activities. A great many agencies, organizations, and individuals helped with this effort. One of the most effective in improving the condition of these new eastern National Forests was the Civilian Conservation Corps of the Great Depression. Trees were planted, erosion problems solved, roads, bridges and dams built, recreation areas constructed, and fire fighting was improved.

Given all the challenges, it is a wonder that this effort to create eastern National Forests succeeded. However, 100 years later, 26 eastern States are home to 52 National Forests encompassing 25,462,914 National Forest System acres (about 6.8% of the forested land in the 26 States). These National Forests include all kinds of forested environments, ranging from the White Mountains of New Hampshire to the lakes of northern Minnesota, from the hardwood forests of the southern Appalachians to the piney woods of the coastal plain and pine/hardwood forests of the Piedmont.

The success of these efforts is very evident today. There are now 132 Congressionally designated Wilderness areas where there once were stumps and debris. There are 34 National Wild and Scenic Rivers, 9 National Recreation Areas, 16 National Game Refuges and Wildlife Preserves,



over 27,000 miles of hiking trails, (including 848 miles of the Appalachian Trail), more than 3700 developed recreation sites, and over 53 million recreation visits to these eastern National Forests each year. Numerous organizations expand the scope and reach of the National Forests thru programs they administer under land use permits from the Forest Service. The timber resource, which in many cases was practically nonexistent when these lands were acquired, now totals an estimated 42 billion cubic feet of growing stock and about 135 billion board feet of sawtimber. Streams that were degraded and choked with silt now flow with clear, clean, high quality water. Numerous municipal water supplies depend on National Forest watersheds that provide a stable source of clean water to their communities. Wildlife habitats were reestablished and managed. Hunters and fishermen now enjoy some of the best outdoor experiences in the East as the fish and game have returned to many of these cooperatively managed habitats. As our population grows and encroaches into more and more formerly rural areas, the presence of these large areas of public land become increasingly important as places of respite and rejuvenation.

As we reflect back on this outstanding accomplishment, we should also remember that there is still work to be done. World War II stopped all land acquisition as our country's resources were focused on the war effort. As a result, several of the newer eastern National Forests have fragmented ownership patterns, while others had critical gaps in important resource areas. After WWII, there were very limited Weeks Law appropriations for acquisition. The 1965 passage of the Land and Water Conservation Fund provided another source of funding for land purchases under the authority of the Weeks Act. However, while substantial monies have periodically been available under the Fund, annual appropriations have never approached what was available and have varied greatly thru the years.

We can best commemorate and honor the incredible achievements of the past 100 years by continuing to manage these eastern National Forests with care and professionalism, always looking for ways to enhance the values they provide to our citizens. These lands are of particular value because the legislative mandate to manage for multiple uses provides options for the future. The benefits from these public lands will continue to grow as the nation's population increases.

*Gordon Small began his Forest Service Career in Kentucky on a timber inventory crew on the Cumberland National Forest (now the Daniel Boone). Subsequent assignments included the Berea Ranger District, the Redbird Purchase Unit, R-8 Regional Office, Lands, Minerals and Planning Staff on the Ozark-St. Francis, Regional Director of Lands, Watershed and Minerals in R-9 and two WO assignments, the last one being as Director of Lands. He can be reached at: [balsamgap@gmail.com](mailto:balsamgap@gmail.com). This White Paper would not have been possible without the help of a number of people. Jim Snow-OGC, Dave Sherman (retired), Dave Jolly (retired) and Terry Seyden-NFs in NC, provided extensive background documentation. Louisa Herrera, WO-Lands, provided current land-status information. Brad Smith, WO, Quantitative Sciences, pointed the way to the timber and land use information. Tom Speaks, Cherokee NF, and Mary Noel, Nfs in NC, provided recreation numbers. John Caffin, Fire and Aviation, R-8, provided background about Section 2 of the Weeks Act.*

### **USFS is "Dramatically Reshaping" Plans in Response to Climate Change Challenge**

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell has directed his agency's regions and research stations to produce draft "landscape conservation action plans" by March 1, 2010, to guide its day-to-day response to climate change. According to Tidwell, climate change is "dramatically reshaping" how the Forest Service will deliver on its mission of sustaining the health and diversity of the nation's forests. He focused particularly on water management. "Responding to the challenges of climate change in providing water and water-related ecosystem services is one of the most urgent tasks facing us as an agency."



Tidwell wrote. "History will judge us by how well we respond to these challenges." Tidwell said the Forest Service's task is to translate the over-all strategic framework for responding to climate change, released last month, into its daily operations. He directed regional foresters and station directors to work together to prepare "aggressive and well-coordinated" area-specific action plans for landscape conservation focused especially on water. "The plans...should become blueprints for integrating climate change and watershed management," Tidwell wrote. "They should use climate change as a theme under which to integrate and streamline existing national and regional strategies for ecological restoration, fire and fuels, forest health, biomass utilization, and others." Tidwell said he will soon name a "climate change executive" to guide the effort. "This issue is certainly another significant argument for active management of our national forest," said Old Smokey Jim Golden, Chair of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees. "Improving resiliency through management and protecting forests from catastrophic wildfire should lead the list of actions needed to respond to climate change and protect watersheds. These actions also create the added benefit of increased carbon sequestration."

"I believe this is another opportunity for the public to get behind active forest management," Jim concluded, encouraging Forest Service retirees to "add our voice in support of active management of our forests."

From an article in the "Old Smokeys Newsletter" - Winter 2010

### **LOOKING BACK**

Part 2 in a 3-part series - See November 2009 Dixie Ranger for Part 1

by *Jim McConnell*

In the last issue of the DR I quoted bits and pieces of an article published in the Newsweek magazine dated June 2, 1952. One cannot tell who wrote the article. If someone in the FS did, I would be surprised. National magazines do not let others, especially those that would be self servicing, grace their pages. I am sure someone in the FS had to feed them the statistics used and the stories of FS employees going about their business. I think it was well done. Now, to continue short quotes from the article: "No one can deny that the Forest Service is one of Uncle Sam's soundest and most businesslike investments. It is the only major government branch showing a cash profit and a growing inventory. This year, through timber sales, grazing permits, and other fees, the foresters will turn back to the US Treasury a new surplus of \$10,000,000. At least \$17,000,000 (25% of gross receipts) will go to counties which include national forest lands. If privately held, the forest would not yield half that much in local taxes."

"The Forest Service owes much of its phenomenal efficiency to two policies: decentralization and cooperation with anyone who will cooperate."

"Different forests present problems. The Francis Marion, near the seaport of Charleston, SC, bristles with loblolly and longleaf pine – thrifty trees with "room to grow and none to spare." The main trouble is incendiarism. Berkely County law still permits cattle and hogs to range freely over the unfenced forest. And local citizens regularly set the woods on fire to burn away oak brush and release forage for their beasts."

"Forest Supervisor Joe Riebold estimates that 77% of the fires on the Marion start when some local resident rides his horse through the woods, dropping lit matches as he goes." "While attempting to convince the county folk that the forest means more money to them if it doesn't burn every year,



Riebold and his rangers indulge in a little incendiaryism of their own. They have mastered the trick of controlled burning when the wind is just right. They use their fires to remove worthless brush, destroy accumulated pine needles which harbor brown-spot fungus or constitute a fire hazard, or to prepare a clean seedbed for new trees." "In Riebold's other forest, the Sumter in the mountainous northwest part of the state, watershed protection, recreation, and wildlife management are predominant activities. This spring Ranger Lester P. Schaap of the Sumter's General Pickens District closed a deal that was very important to a dozen girls, aged 10 to 16. The girls, members of the Rosebud Junior Garden Club of Walhalla, wanted to sponsor a picnic table at a spot alongside State Hwy 107. As is customary, the Forest Service agreed to build the table and maintain it, but the club would first have to supply the money. The signed agreements show that in January, the Rosebuds' sponsor, Mrs. Clyde C. Brown, deposited \$11 with the service's regional fiscal agent in Atlanta. Two months later, a cake sale added another \$15 to the kitty; so the girls are over the hump toward their goal of \$40. Meanwhile, they have worked hard to clear way unerbrush, plant some azaleas, and rake up sticks and leaves. To the Forest Service, business dealings with the Rosebuds are just as solemn as those with big lumber companies."

Part 3 of the journey through the Forest Service, as we knew it, will be in the next issue of *The Dixie Ranger*.

#### **Letter to Employees from The Regional Forester Liz Agpaoa**

Greetings everyone! This last week of December is a good time for me to reflect on the past year and the great work of the Southern Region employee's contributions toward our resources and the people we serve. The office halls are pretty quiet today and before the calendar year officially ends, I wanted to share with you a few of my thoughts and the many accomplishments that you made happen this past year.

This was certainly a year of transition. I can hardly believe that over 14 months have passed since I pulled my packed car into the RO garage. Moving to a new town and job is a big transition and I want to thank you all for making it an exciting and rewarding one. Before I arrived, I heard about the Southern Region's reputation for innovation and ability to accomplish important work, despite great challenges. I witnessed this time and again this past year. In November, I proudly signed the 2009 Performance Accountability Report and sent it to the Chief. The Region met and exceeded its target in key areas, fuels management, timber sales sold, and enhancement of terrestrial habitat to name just a few. Many complex and difficult land management decisions were also made. As you know, these targets are not only acres, miles, or volume, rather they represent our commitment to Restore, Protect, and Serve. Restore ecosystems by creating resilient and healthy conditions, protect in anticipation of catastrophic events and serve through healthy management, the needs of neighbors, communities and country.

You also kept your commitment to the goals of the Four Threats. In a few days, the Southern Region will meet a significant goal, set back in 2005, that addressed unmanaged recreation. The Southern Region will complete all Forest Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUMs), despite many difficult decisions. Your leadership and tenacity made this a success.

As I traveled through the Region this past year, I spoke with many who were concerned about the economy and the effects on employees and communities. In February, the USFS was asked to play a significant role in making the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) successful. There was no road map for this work. Despite a year of short timeframes and constantly moving targets, the Southern Region consistently stepped up to each new goal. We met every timeline set by the WO for each ARRA request. Early this week, we achieved a significant goal asked by the Chief, by exceeding 60% of the ARRA funds obligated, prior to the end of the calendar year. Your innovation and hard work were outstanding. In discussions with employees, one big frustration has been less time to do your work because HR systems were not working so well. A year ago, national leadership began change with HR redesign. The final decision made in November, begins a new journey that will address these needs and better assist employees. Like many journeys, we can expect to adapt and change, but we are on the right course. For many in the USFS, the work we do is much more than a job; it is a commitment to serve. We serve for and with each other. Each day when you come to work, I ask that you take the time to serve safely and personally look out for the safety of your crew, team, and office mates too.

This year, we will hear more about restoration goals across all lands and improving ecosystem health and resiliency to address the issues of climate change. These are themes that employees in R8 have already taken to heart. I am looking forward to working with you this coming year with great anticipation of the Southern Region approach toward meeting these challenges in 2010.



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**

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City / State: \_\_\_\_\_ Nine-Digit Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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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

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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**REMINDER** – June Luncheon reservations need to be called in by Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> –  
**Mark your calendar today!** (See page 2)

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