



THE DIXIE RANGER

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President's Corner:

"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another." Erma Brombeck

Since I have two widowed sisters, a wife, and being 74 years old myself, a part of my social life is spent in doctors' offices and hospitals. I was at Emory Medical Center Radiology a few days ago, a place I have been many times. On almost every visit I had seen the volunteers but never thought much about the service they provide. The patients in radiology or infusion are there because something is medically wrong or might be wrong. It is not a place you "just visit". Then the lady comes by with a cart offering (free) water, snacks, juice, magazines, etc. What a nice way to make the day a little better.

Many, and probably all of you know the service provided by those in the Forest Service Volunteer Program. On May 18, 1972, the Volunteers in the National Forest Act was signed into law. This act "authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to recruit, train, and accept without regard to the civil service classification laws, rules, or regulations the services of individuals without compensation as volunteers for or in aid of interpretive functions, visitor services, conservation measures and development, or other activities in and related to areas administered by the Secretary through the Forest Service." Since then, 2.5 million volunteers have contributed over 100 million hours of service valued at \$1.2 billion helping to care for the land and serve people. From serving as campground hosts, to transporting supplies to Wilderness areas, to manning lookout towers overlooking a canopy of hundreds of acres of trees, to introducing youth to the beauty and majesty of America's Great Outdoors, Forest Service volunteers are contributing in every resource area. (From the USFS web site)

Everybody that has raised, or is raising, kids knows about the hours spent working concession stands, chaperoning trips, lining the soccer field, coaching little league teams, and the list goes on and on. How could we ever get the work done without the volunteers?

This leads me to those that are responsible for the Southern Forest Service Retiree Association. Before I agreed to accept a role in the organization, Jeanette and I came to the luncheons, enjoyed the fellowship of old and new friends, enjoyed the meal, and enjoyed the program. We went home without much thought about the work that so many put into making everything happen. The Officers and Directors are listed on the March 2012 directory but there are others that spend many hours for the SFSRA. For example, Nancy and Virgil Sorrells put a lot of hours into organizing the luncheons, finding volunteers to fill the officer and director positions, and many other things that most of us never know about. Dave and Peggy have done an outstanding job of preparing and publishing the newsletter and directory for 8 years. They have announced plans to step down this November. Who will be the new editors? Who will donate the time to continue this work? Perhaps it might be you. If many of us do a little, then the workload is light. Please consider sharing your talents with the SFSRA.

Sid Haggard, President

Luncheon/Meeting

Prior to the luncheon, the SFSRA Board of Directors met with Sid Haggard, Jim Rogers, Tom Tibbs, Jim McConnell, Mac Gramley, Sonny Cudabac and Alan Pigg in attendance. Among topics discussed were: Action to be taken to recruit new retirees - Sid and Alan will prepare a package and take it to the Regional Office to meet with the Regional Forester - with as an incentive, the first years dues will be free; Tom Tibbs expressed a problem with outstanding or unpaid past dues from members - discussion was focused on resolving the problem; there was discussion about finding a replacement for *The Dixie Ranger's* editors; and suggestions were discussed for our guest speaker for the Christmas luncheon; it was decided that Mac Gramley will officially represent our Association at the Forest Service 2012 Reunion in Vail, Colorado.

Festive red, white and blue table decorations were used by Nancy and Virgil Sorrells to create a very patriotic setting for our luncheon. Approximately 50 members and guests were welcomed by President Sid Haggard who also introduced special guests Regional Forester Liz Agpaoa and Forest Recreation Staff Mary Hughes Frye from the Regional Office. Historian Jim McConnell read the names of recently deceased and a moment of silence was observed.

Following lunch, the Regional Forester gave a short overview of Region 8 accomplishments and issues. She stressed that Forest Service employees are as professional as ever – accomplishments in the fuels program, forest products and management are noteworthy – fire season is always a problem since the Forest Service does not get additional funding like FEMA and other agencies and costs must come from existing funds – oil and gas emphasis is becoming a higher priority with shale formations under the national forests in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, and Alabama – BLM puts lease areas up for bid and the Forest Service will require increased efforts in resource management and coordination with other agencies such as Fish and Wildlife.

Our guest speaker was Mary Hughes Frye, Forest Recreation Staff, who gave an interesting program on Region 8's recreation resources. She passed out a list of web sites for "Best Tips for Best Trips". Attendees were asked to tell about their favorite road trips and enjoyable activities on the national forests. Mary will compile our responses and send them back to the Association. Following Mary's program, Treasurer Tom Tibbs gave his report that the Association has a balance as of June 5, 2012, of \$9,350. He is contacting members who have not paid dues in the last few years. Gerald Coutant gave a report on the Forest Service Reunion, "Rendezvous in the Rockies" which will be held in Vail CO July 17-21, 2012. Everyone was encouraged to attend this fun gathering. More information can be retrieved at <http://fsreunion2012.com/HomePage.php>. Following the announcements, door prizes were distributed by Fern Coutant. In addition to those door prizes selected by Fern and Jerry, table decorations were drawn for along with a year's dues to *The Dixie Ranger*. Weeta and Bruce Baldwin won a certificate for "Dinner-for-Two" from Petite Auberge Restaurant.

Make your plans now to attend the next luncheon/meeting on December 6, 2012. Further information will be in the November issue of *The Dixie Ranger*.

SUGGESTED BEST ROAD TRIPS - *Brasstown Bald Russelville Scenic Byway Waterfall TOUR GA*
Forest Heritage Highway Pisgah NC NC
Cherohala Skyway NC and TN

www.fs.fed.us

R-8 RETIREES GET TOGETHER

Northeast Atlanta - Retirees are now meeting for breakfast the last Tuesday of each month (except December) at the IHOP Restaurant, 4205 Stone Mountain Highway, Hwy 78, at 7:30 a.m. The restaurant is located in the Killian Hills Village Shopping Center between Pet Smart, Home Depot and the Sports Authority just west of Killian Hill Road. Spouses are always welcome.

Cobb County Georgia - Retirees are now meeting at "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 for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in Cleveland, Tennessee, at the Golden Corral on Stuart Road Paul Huff.

Ouachita National Forest - Retirees, spouses and friends meet the third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in the Cornerstone Shopping Center, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

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

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

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

Francis Marion & Sumpter National Forests - Glenda Wood reports - Francis Marion and Sumter National Forest retirees held our spring meeting/luncheon at the Ocean View Seafood Restaurant in Columbia on April 11, 2012. Retirees met to socialize for approximately 45 minutes prior to lunch at noon. We were especially pleased to welcome Forest Supervisor Paul Bradley. Attending were: Phyllis Burnette, Bill & Barbara Bodie; Ron & Catherine Boozer, Larry & Verma Cope, Jim & Doris Daniel, Don & Joyce Hair, Bill Hayes, Ed Hedgecock, Jerry & Audrey Henderson, Bill & Mary Holton, Katie Jackson, Tommy & Janet Kinard, Jeanne LeBoef, LeRoy Lewis, Al & Pat McDonald, Paul & Carol Myers, Dave Rosdahl, Jim & Vicki Scott, Ginger Thomas, Bryant & Joyce Watts, and Jim & Glenda Wood.

While lunch orders were being taken, Glenda Wood asked for updates from retirees present and also updated the group on those from whom she had heard recently. FM&S retirees continue to lead busy and interesting lives. David Adams had two great-nephews from Florida visiting this week. Nora Autrey was hospitalized recently for 5 days as a result of a bacterial infection and was not feeling well. She finally has medication which is beginning to help her. Barbara Bodie shared with the group exciting and interesting details of their 50th wedding anniversary celebration. Their children had

honored them with a family trip to Alaska. John Cathey was not able to travel until after his next doctor's check-up. He has experienced a problem with his pacemaker and had to undergo surgery recently. He wants everyone to know he is feeling fine, his spirits are good, many friends are praying for him and he is planning to be at our next meeting - even if he has to come on a stretcher. John said that he and Bernice are now a 2-member pacemaker family. LeRoy Lewis had contacted Dave Devet to offer him a ride to the luncheon. Mr. Devet told LeRoy he was doing well, but didn't leave his home often. Jean Eng had a meeting conflict but wanted to extend her greetings to the group. Duna Harrell, Colette Phillips and James Marshall had conflicts. Paul and Carolyn Myers reported on their recent travels and that they are planning to attend the Forest Service reunion in Colorado.

Jerry Henderson gave the invocation for lunch, and Immediately following the meal, Supervisor Bradley gave us another interesting update on Forest Service issues and activities. In closing, he stated that despite the downward turn in the economy nation-wide, he was optimistic about another successful year for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests.

Retirees will next meet on October 10, 2012 at 11:15 a.m. at the Ocean View Seafood Restaurant in Columbia. We would like to extend an invitation to our out-of-state Forest Service Friends and former co-workers to join us. If you're traveling in our area at the time of our meeting, please call or e-mail to let us know you plan to attend. Contact either Vicki Scott (803) 364-2504 or e-mail cyberfogie@aol.com or Glenda Wood (803) 422-4144 or e-mail tanner2010@centurylink.net .

Note: Glenda reports that she visited with Roy Turner in June 2012 at his home in Surfside Beach while she was on vacation with her family at the beach there. Roy stated that he would like to join us at some future date. He and Elsie are experiencing health problems.

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NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE REUNION 2012 - Vail Colorado - September 17 - 21 2012

It's not too late to register! Plan to join your fiends and colleagues for a fun, educational and activity filled week in Vail. It is a truly magical location in the fall...a beautiful setting to sit back and reminisce about your glory days while learning how your organization operates today, first hand from current leadership. Make your plans now! There are still rooms available and specific reservation details can be found under the **Accommodations** section of the website www.fsreunion2012.com There is also still space available on most field trips. Again, we hope you will make plans to participate in some of the great trips and activities that have been planned for our enjoyment. Make sure to reserve your spot for the Top of the Mountain event on Wednesday night. This is going to be an absolutely fabulous evening at the top of the Eagle Bahn gondola directly above Lionshead Square in Vail. In addition, there are many field trip opportunities. Trips include riding historic trains and visiting the historic mining towns of Leadville and Georgetown, traveling over the 12,096 ft Independence Pass to the spectacular Maroon Bells mountains in Aspen, float trips on the Colorado River, a jeep tour into the high country, hiking into an alpine basin, and more. A complete list can be found on the website under **Activities**. Keep updated at www.fsreunion2012.com .

A TV can insult your intelligence, but nothing rubs it in like a computer!

Anonymous

There is a great need for a sarcasm font!

Unknown

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

WARREN CAGLE (COLLEEN)

449 Kingston Hwy 293NW
Cartersville, GA 30120
Phone: (770) 336-5621

BOB JOSLIN (LORNA)

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Lander, WY 82520
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ROBERT MITCHELL (JOANN)

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Mena, AR 71953
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ROY MOORE (VIRGINIA)

1136 Cole Lake Road
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Phone: (770) 445-0086
E-mail: vrj2748@att.net

GENE SIRMON (WANDA)

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Brandon, MS 39042
Phone: (601) 940-6545
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National Forests in Mississippi

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Phone: (850) 422-2247
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National Forests in Florida

DAVID WILSON (DIANN)

216 Platinum Drive
Lexington, SC 29072
Phone: (803) 356-5651
E-mail: dwilson@nwtf.net
Savannah River Site

Changes and Additions to March 2012 Directory

Larry Fleming - new phone: (704) 341-1288 new e-mail: larryanddj@bellsouth.net

David Harris - change phone: (540) 989-6386

Phil Kromer - wife, Ruth, passed away 1/1/12

Terri McDonald - change e-mail: tmcd1663@aol.com

Richard Moore - change address and telephone: 400 Wesley Dr. Apt 378; Asheville, NC 28803-7304
phone: (828) 285-2367

Lucy Nix - change e-mail: lucynix@windstream.net

Margaret Stephens - change phone: (706) 654-0845

Robert Wilhelm - change phone: (770) 315-1530 and e-mail rwilhelm65@gmail.com

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

JOSIE (DAVID) JACKSON - Texas - I retired from the USDA Forest Service, National Forests in Texas, Supervisor's Office, Lufkin, Texas, in 1998, after 20 years. I was the Receptionist, Fleet Clerk and Property Clerk at various times. I am now in my "second career" in retail sales with Lowe's Home Centers. From time to time, while driving around the area, I see some of those old "Forest Service green" vehicles in use. Each time I see one of them, I still feel such pride at having been a part of the Forest Service. Although the Forest Service decals on the vehicle doors are gone – having been scraped off or painted over – but the green color is unmistakable as to where the vehicle originally came from. I still think of them as "our vehicles". And I will always be thankful for the opportunities afforded me by being a part of the Forest Service team. I am grateful for the lasting friendships I formed and for the many unforgettable memories I will always carry with me. Many of you in R8 will remember the Texas Fleet Manager, Angus Nicol, with his cowboy hat, red beard and ponytail. During the vehicle auctions, Angus and I said good-bye to the old vehicles, hoping they would go to "good homes". We then welcomed the new green fleet arrivals with brand new license plates, credit cards and new vehicle numbers. They were assigned to the various districts and sent on to their new homes. The Forest Service was a great place to work, with great people to work with. And getting a glimpse of those old green Forest Service vehicles reminds me of that. Thanks to Larry Trezell, one of those great people, for telling me about *The Dixie Ranger* publication and for paying my 2012 membership dues. Thanks, Larry!

LARRY FLEMING - North Carolina - Guess I let time slip by without paying my dues. Enclosed is a check for three years. I enjoy getting *The Dixie Ranger* and other news from retirees. DJ and I are still in Charlotte, North Carolina. We've been here longer than any place we lived while I was working. Life is good!!

GEORGE HEDGES - Alabama - Please find the enclosed check for another couple of years membership dues. Thank you for the fond memories of the past days of the Forest Service. *The Dixie Ranger* is the only publication that I receive and read cover-to-cover the day I receive it. The stories of the past just bring back great memories of the Forest Service extended family we all were a part of. Thanks again.

BOB DODSON - Florida - Lost my label and know I must be behind. Those were good old days! Thanks for the memories.

KEITH ARGOW - Virginia - I always send my dues in promptly to Treasurer Tom Tibbs whom I had the pleasure of hiring in 1972, and I always enjoy *The Dixie Ranger*! By the time I got to Region 8 in 1963, I had had Forest Service jobs in Regions 2 and 6 and two years in the Washington Office. My Region 8 assignment was as the project leader of the Cradle of Forestry. First in the Regional Office, then in the Supervisor's Office, and eventually as Deputy Ranger on the Pisgah Ranger District. Following a four-year stint on the forestry faculty at North Carolina State, I had the wonderful opportunity to join the folks on the Jefferson National Forest as Area Ranger of Mt. Rogers NRA.

Following four years on the Virginia Tech forestry faculty, I joined Trout Unlimited as their Executive Director for three years. For the last 31 years I have chaired the American Resources Group which in 1983 sponsored the National Woodland Owners Association for which I still serve as CEO and publisher of National Woodlands Magazine. I am pleased to see retirees (NAFSR) speak out for good forestry and hope to see some of you at the reunion coming up in Colorado. I would be remiss if I did not mention the Forest Fire Lookout Association to restore and support fire lookouts. Region 8 and

the southern states are home to many of these historic relics. See www.ffla.org for what is going on, including lookout rentals. Also see www.nwoa.net. Family landowners produce half of the home grown wood in America. Try as some folks might, you "can't keep a good tree down!"

LARRY TREKELL - Texas - Friendly correction to March Dixie Ranger: In Jack Godden's good article, Tributes to "Bud" Howe, he mentioned that Bud entered Oklahoma State University. Bud actually entered Oklahoma A&M College. I entered OAMC in 1956 and had a couple good years with Bud in the Forestry Club sawing and splitting firewood for sale to fund the club. Bud graduated two years before me from the, now, Oklahoma State University. The College gained University status between semesters 1957-1958 and became OSU. Still when we graduated, we were Aggies! I never saw Bud again, or had the privilege of working with him after graduation.

MIKE DAWSON - Louisiana - Say it ain't true! D and Mss P: Heard you were giving up The Dixie Ranger work. Will miss you folks, and cannot say enough good about the work you have done for the DR. You made it what it is. Dave, if memory serves, believe you were Ranger on the Mena sometime in the late '60's. LeRoy Shores was my father-in-law, and he spoke of you highly, as did my good friend Mike Sparks. I also remember a Dave Jolly visiting the Kisatchie National Forest sometime in the early '90's, but could be wrong. One thing I do know is that you had a great reputation in the agency. I hope you and Ms Peggy have a lot more years together, and that they are healthy and memorable.

GEORGE GIBBS - Kentucky - It's dues time again so will catch up and get a couple of years ahead. The last couple of years have been an awakening for me after some years of slumber. Two trips back to Florida for their reunions and one trip to Atlanta for the mid-year reunion and it's really good to see old friends again. Hate losing some along the way, but I guess that is a sign of the times. Also made it back to Tallahassee for Mark Warren's retirement so you can add him to your retirees list. I am providing his address and his first years dues are covered in the enclosed check. Hope to see all in Atlanta mid-year.

ROGER EUBANK - Alabama - I threw my mailing sleeve away before I checked to see when my dues ran out. I think I was paid through 2011. At any rate here is another 3 years of dues. Hate to see Dave and Peggy leaving the editor's job. They have done an excellent job and brought some very good new ideas to our publication. They deserve many, many kudos! Dave, Peggy and I work with the same volunteer organization here in the Lake Martin area and I know they have a full plate of other stuff as well.

JACK ALCOCK - Georgia - Ooops! Sorry to be late! Thanks for your good work for the retirees.

DICK MOORE - North Carolina - I didn't know that I was behind with my dues, especially 2 years! We did move 2 years ago. Any way, here is my check for \$20. Thanks. (Dick's new address is listed in the Changes and Additions section of this newsletter.)

BOB WILHELM - Georgia - Thanks for all you do to keep *The Dixie Ranger* going. It is appreciated.

FRANK FINDLEY - North Carolina - Enclosed is a check for the last 2 years and for 2 additional, through 2014. Keep up the great work!

JEANELL FRASER - Florida - Thank you for your recent letter. Enclosed is my check which should cover my dues through 2013. After Ed passed away, I did not renew my subscription and assumed

I had been purged from your listing as I have not received a publication in years, and did not receive your latest mailing. I can't tell you when the last copy was received. At any rate, please send me the March publication and we will be back of track. Again, thanks for your concern. (We are sending Jeanell both the November 2011 and the March 2012 issues, along with the 2012 directory.)

KAYE SHELTON - Tennessee - Talked to Bob Joslin and found out that he's not a member. Here's his first year dues plus one year for me.

DON WOODS - Tennessee - Finally sending money for renewal. Sorry for lateness. I'm sure you know the story of going to get your checkbook (or anything else) and at the end of the day you've done many things - but no was check written! The rhododendrons are at their peak this week. It would be a nice trip if you haven't been to The Roan Mountain State Park. (This note was written the second week in June - mark your calendar for next year!)

Members sending in dues without letters were **Joyce Braswell, Henry (Harry) Bullock, Bobby Carter, Roger Dennington, Larry Ford, James Moore, Louise Morrell** and **Woody Woodall**.

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It's a conspiracy, we must stop this! Have you ever noticed that when you're of a certain age, everything seems uphill from where you are? Stairs are steeper. Groceries are heavier. And, everything seems farther away. Yesterday I walked to the corner and was dumfounded to discover how long our street had become! And, people are less considerate now, especially the young ones. They speak in whispers all the time! If you ask them to speak up they just keep repeating themselves, endlessly mouthing the same silent message until they're red in the face! What do they think I am, a lip reader. They're much younger than I was at that age. On the other hand, people my own age are so much older than I am. I ran into an old friend the other day and she has aged so much that she didn't even recognize me. I got to thinking about the poor dear while I was combing my hair this morning, and in doing so, I glanced at my own reflection.....Well, REALLY NOW.....even mirrors are not made the way they used to be!

Another thing, everyone drives so fast today! You're risking life and limb if you happen to pull onto the freeway in front of them. All I can say is, their brakes must wear out awfully fast, the way I see them screech and swerve in my rear view mirror.

Clothing manufacturers are less civilized these days. Why else would they suddenly start labeling a size 10 or 12 dress as 18 or 20? Do they think no one notices that these things no longer fit around the waist, hips, thighs and bosom? And bathroom scales...do they think I actually believe the number I see on that dial? HA! I would never let myself weigh that much! Just who do these people think they're fooling.

I'd like to call up someone in authority to report what's going on, but the telephone company is in on the conspiracy too; they've printed the phone books in such small type that no one could ever find a number in there! All I can do is pass along this warning: Maturity is under attack! Unless something drastic happens, pretty soon "everyone" will have to suffer these awful indignities. We need to get this conspiracy stopped!

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS – 2012 - 2013

Officers

President: Sid Haggard
sidhaggard@att.net

President-elect: Jim Rogers
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Treasurer: Tom Tibbs
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Directors

Vickie Sell (2012)
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Mac Gramley (2013)
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Joyce Keith (2014)
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Ex-Officio: Larry Bishop
lmacbishop@hotmail.com

NFSRA - Jerry Coutant
coutfj@bellsouth.net

NON-PAYMENT OF DUES - 56 members are one year behind! In an effort to keep down costs of printing and mailing *The Dixie Ranger*, the SFSRA Board of Directors has approved a new policy regarding removing members for **non-payment** of dues. The policy to be implemented in 2013 is: "All members on the mailing list will be current with their dues or they will be removed from the mailing list." For the members who are currently two or more years behind, you will be removed from the mailing list by October 15, 2012 which means you won't receive the November 2012 issue of *The Dixie Ranger*. For all of you who are behind, this is your **friendly** notice to **send in your dues**.

This is consistent with the SFSRA Constitution Article IV Membership, Section 5, which states: "A person may resign from membership by writing a letter to the Secretary. The Board of Directors may remove any member from membership who fails to pay his dues by March 31 or who performs an act which is a disservice or discredit to the organization."

Also, Article IX Dues, Section 1, states: "Dues for Membership and Associate Membership shall be \$10 per year, payable in advance upon application for membership and by January 1 each year thereafter. Dues shall be intended primarily for printing and mailing of newsletters, directories of members, ballots and other official communications." Amendment No. 9.

The year through which your dues are paid is on your address-label area of the envelope in which *The Dixie Ranger* newsletter is mailed – it is to the right of your name. **If you are not sure about your current information (dues)**, you can e-mail Tom Tibbs at gtibbs6@embarqmail.com or **call him at (276) 783-2498**. If Tom does not answer leave a message with his wife, Ann, or on the answering machine and he will get back to you **asap**.

Dues should be mailed to Tom Tibbs at 627 Oak Lane, Marion, VA 24354.

IN MEMORIAM

Compiled by Sonny Cudabac

Frances Ann Plexico Stoward, 92, of Atlanta, Georgia, passed away on March 31, 2012, of congestive heart failure. During World War II, Frances was in the WAC and served for two years in the Signal Office of the Office of the Military Attache' at the American Embassy in London, England. She worked for nineteen years at Citizens Bank and the P.M. Reid Insurance Agency in Cuthbert, Georgia. In 1972, she moved to Atlanta and was employed by the Southeast Regional Forest Service until her retirement in 1983. Predeceased by her husband Thomas R. Stewart, Frances is survived by her daughter, Ann Stewart Summer of Atlanta and many nieces and nephews.

Bob Cormak passed away on April 4, 2012. He was a former Forest Supervisor of the George Washington National Forest and the National Forests of North Carolina. Bob fought a tough battle with cancer. Cards and notes can be mailed to his wife Ethyl at 51 Redbird Court, Oroville, California 95966.

George Wayne Kelley, a long time Region 8 employee, passed away on April 13, 2012, in Heavener, Oklahoma. Wayne held many positions in the Forest Service. During his career he was Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Ouachita National Forest in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Forest Supervisor on the George Washington National Forest in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He retired from the Atlanta Regional Office as Deputy Regional Financial Officer. He is survived by his wife Ann and two daughters.

David C. Moore, 73, of Hot Springs Arkansas, passed away on April 14, 2012. David served in the U.S. Army and retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a Senior Master Sergeant. His honorable service extended into a career with the U.S. Forest Service spanning more than 30 years. He was Supervisory Contract Specialist on the Ouachita National Forest when he retired in 1992. David was a poet and published author of two books on contracting. Surviving are his wife of 22 years, Brenda; three daughters; one step-daughter and several grandchildren.

Jerry Rockett, 71, of Heathsville, Virginia, passed away on April 15, 2012, in Kilmarnock, Virginia, from complications due to pancreatic cancer. Having grown up on the family farm in Spearsville, Louisiana, Jerry earned a bachelor's degree in forestry from Louisiana Tech University in 1962 and completed graduate studies at Duke University. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 35 years, retiring in 1996. Jerry's Forest Service career took him to many places around the country, including stints as Ranger on the Tuskegee (Alabama), Ouachita (Oklahoma), and DeSoto (Mississippi) National Forests. Later management assignments saw Jerry and his family re-locate to Atlanta, San Francisco, Philadelphia and Washington, DC. After serving in Vietnam, he served in the US Air Force Reserves, attaining the rank of Captain. In retirement, he remained active in community service and was an accomplished woodworker and carpenter who was generous with his creations, such as complete mantles and blue bird houses. Jerry maintained his four-acre homestead in Virginia with loving detail. Preceded in death by his only brother, Kenneth, he is survived by his wife of 49 years, Sandy; son Jeff Rockett and daughter-in-law Connie; grandson Justin Rockett and great-grandson Tyler Rockett, all of Virginia.

Katheryn Grace Fornea, 76, died at Riverside Hospital on May 8, 2012. She was the wife of Forest Service retiree Bill Fornea who worked his last several years on the Vernon and Catahoula Ranger Districts on the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana. She and Bill were married for 55 years. Preceding Katheryn in death was her only child, son "Little Bill", 53, who died on January 25, 2012.

Survivors include her husband Bill, daughter-in-law Carolina Fornea and two grandsons.

George W. Smith, husband of Regional Office retiree Lynn Smith and father of Tracy Adkins of Lands, Minerals and Uses staff, died May 16, 2012. Condolences may be sent to Lynn Smith, 674 Mount Vernon Church Road, Jackson, Georgia 30233.

Nona B. Barnes, mother of Nona Huckabee, retired Forest Service employee, died May 16, 2012. Condolences may be sent to Nona Huckabee, 750 Six Flags Road, Lot 29, Austell, Georgia 30168.

David M. Webb, 77, passed away June 5, 2012, after a long challenge from Parkinson's disease and heart issues. He was a wonderful man who will be missed by all who knew him. David received a BSc from Penn State and his MA from American University. He was a very active member of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church for over 30 years. After working for the U.S. Forest Service as a writer/editor, he retired in 1995. He is survived by his sister-in-law Eleanor "Lee" Webb; two nieces; and good friend Michael Catlett.

Glynn "Cindy" O'Rear, retired career timber marker on the old Tenaha Ranger District of the Sabine National Forest in Texas, passed away on January 25, 2012, at his home in Huxley, Texas. Cindy was an amiable man with a hearty laugh. His favorite song was "Ode to Billy Joe". This information was provided by Larry Trekell.

Karen Schaber, 41, current employee on the Jessieville Ranger District of the Ouachita National Forest in Hot Springs, Arkansas, passed away suddenly, on April 29, 2012. She was at work on Friday and suffered an aneurism on Saturday. Karen was an accomplished photographer and a collector of stray animals – mostly yellow labs. Among survivors are her husband Tony Schaber; daughter Alexis Hagen; parents; three brothers and two sisters. This information was provided by Jim Wenner.

James Freeman, 85, passed away on June 30, 2012, at his home in Victor, Montana. During WWII Jim served on the destroyer USS John R. Craig and, after his honorable discharge in 1946, he attended the University of Wisconsin and received his BS in Forest Management from Michigan Tech University. His Forest Service career spanned 28 ½ years including duty stations in Region One, the Washington Office, and the Eastern Region where he retired in 1982. While serving another 20 years as a full-time volunteer with the Bitter Root Resource, Conservation & Development, Inc. (RC&D), Jim remained active in the National Association of Forest Service Retirees and with the National Museum of Forest Service History. Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Ruth, and six children, their spouses, eleven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Elaine and Jim McConnell have been preparing this section of *The Dixie Ranger* for the past several years, and we would like to express our appreciation to them for all their hard work. They continue to serve as Historians of the Association. **Thank you!**

Death notices and obituaries should be sent to Sonny Cudabac via e-mail or in correspondence to Tom Tibbs or your editors.

DAVE DUBOW AND WAYNE RUZISKA – AN INTERESTING PAIR

by *Bill Hess*

After reading the article in a back issue of *The Dixie Ranger* about Dave Dubow, – it brought back memories of the fun times I had with Dave and Wayne Ruziska (deceased in 2002).

I first met Wayne in 1961 when I was Assistant Ranger on the Cumberland National Forest, Stanton District (now Daniel Boone National Forest). Wayne was the Ranger on the Somerset District. Wayne was tough. He was a World War II veteran wounded in the Battle of the Bulge.

I met Dave in 1972, when we were fellow forest staff officers on the Kisatchie National Forest under Supervisor Lamar Beasley. Dave was no pushover for anybody.

Later all three of us ended up retiring while in the Atlanta Regional Office.

Both of these guys were true outdoorsmen and loved to hunt, fish and camp as I did. Dave was an excellent trout fisherman and never went home until he caught his limit of trout – no matter how late in the day.

Our favorite fishing stream was on the East Fork of the Chattooga River. We would camp at Oconee State Park in South Carolina and talk about the day's adventures. We camped away from any other campers, as sometimes our discussions would get loud (helped by liquid refreshments).

Our hunting trips to Nebraska were always an adventure. Nothing was boring with these two guys.

Eventhough Dave and Wayne were tough guys, it was meaningful to see how the three of us were remembering our adventures, with compassion, when Dave and I were with Wayne at Wayne's bedside just before he died.

R8: Southern Region employs aggressive controls to stop southern pine beetle

From "The Chief's Desk, People, Places and Things", July 13, 2012

A southern pine beetle outbreak has become a serious threat to the Homochitto National Forest in Mississippi. For nearly a decade, the beetle had not posed a serious threat to the National Forests in Mississippi, nor the rest of the South. Now, the forest is monitoring or controlling more than 330 infestations. Although most infestations are still less than an acre, all indications are that the outbreak is expanding rapidly. The forest has been aggressive in suppression actions to protect high-value pine stands as well as red-cockaded woodpecker habitat. A major challenge has been the lack of timber markets, which forces the forest to use the cut-and leave control method.

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. Mark Twain

A married man should forget his mistakes...there's no use in two people remembering the same thing.

Unknown

THE BOSS

by *Mike Sparks*

When Ralph Mumme came to Region 8 as the new Director of Timber Management in about 1986, he had been the Forest Supervisor for the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. The Forest had been a hotbed of contention between environmentalists and the Forest Service for years over the issues of clear cutting and even-age management. Litigation had been ongoing for several years. Senator Byrd, champion for the people, had gotten involved. Ralph was the spearhead who ultimately helped resolve the issue and allowed the Forest to move on.

When he arrived at his new job as Director of Timber Management for Region 8, Ralph was low key but we all knew he was "THE BOSS". He asked questions, observed the work and the people and made mental notes. He was a fast learner and soon grasped his job with gusto.

He was respected by all who came to know him. Timber industry folks responded favorably to him and relished his thoughts about various timber sale issues.

He had been in his job for about a year when a Washington Office Timber Sale Activity Review was planned for the Southern Region. One of the Forests they wanted to visit was the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana. There were Staff from the Washington Office, two from Timber Management and one from Wildlife, Fisheries and Range. In my new job as Group Leader for Timber Sales, it fell to me the task of scheduling the Forest Service Aircraft, a King Air, to fly the team to Alexandria. So, I visited with the new dispatcher (note I said "NEW") and reserved the Forest Service plane for the designated dates to travel to the Kisatchie National Forest. I had scheduled many flights in the past for activity reviews and never encountered a problem. But unknown to me at that time, ominous storm clouds were brewing.

When the team arrived at the airport on the designated day of departure, we discovered that the Forest Service plane and pilot had been dispatched to a fire so we were assigned a backup private contractor to fly us there. The contract pilot met us and escorted us to the plane for embarking. I had never flown on this plane before not with this pilot....it was an older, no frills plane, painted bright red with twin engines and twin tail fins. We felt safe to fly because this plane and pilot were both certified to fly us to our destination, so we eagerly boarded for another adventure in the sky. The pilot was a crusty old guy, much like Captain Ahab in the story "Moby Dick". He offered us no comforts or coffee and only a few words of instruction. We loaded our gear and took off. It was a clear day across the South and we enjoyed the flight and scenery but in what seemed a short while, we heard the pilot tell us to prepare for landing.

Now friends, we were supposed to land at Esler Field in Alexandria but that was not to be. I first became aware of a problem when Ralph said "There's the Supervisor's Office below us". Now the SO is nowhere near Esler Field. I thought being new to the South, Ralph was mistaken, but then I looked down and sure enough, there it was....the Forest Supervisor's Office and we're in landing pattern, about 200 feet above the ground. I did not recall that Ralph had been here earlier in the past year which enabled him to recognize where we were. I looked at Ralph and he looked at me and we both tightened our seat belts. Where could we be landing?

The answer came very swiftly as the plane dropped precipitously after coming close to the tops of

some tall pine trees. We touched down on the tarmac and the pilot immediately slammed on the brakes and began to say things I cannot repeat. Seems the tarmac was disintegrated and the propeller tips were being sandblasted by loose gravel and the runway was short—very SHORT. Not a good thing if it's your plane. Obviously, we were not at Esler Field which serves private planes as well as big commercial jets. Esler Field is a large intercontinental airport.

Our pilot used the full length of the short runway and finally stopped a few feet from the tall pine trees at the end of the runway. I loosened my seat belt and moved forward to the pilot, hoping he wouldn't assault me as he was very angry. But he got even redder in the face when I told him we were supposed to be at Esler Field and only the Good Lord knew where we were. Ralph didn't say anything, he just had a sheepish grin on his face.

Then it dawned on me as I saw the highway in front of the Supervisor's Office....we were at the Fort Beulow Airport. I had seen it many times before when I traveled from Winnfield to the SO but paid it no mind. It is an airport that was abandoned after WWII. It has been an airfield for the Army Air Corps to train young pilots for aerial combat. There were several practice bombing ranges on the Winn District where I once worked, some still had the remnants of practice bombs partially buried in the ground. The airfield had been designed to accommodate small, single-engine fighter planes with much more maneuverability as well as needing only a short runway and there were no tall pine trees along the edges and ends of the runway in 1942.

The airport had not been maintained since WWII ended. We looked around outside the plane and saw four walls of tall timber that had grown up around the perimeter of the airfield in the 40+ years since it was used. Tall grasses and bushes also grew along the edges. Now, we were faced with taking off on a short runway, again sandblasting the propeller tips and making sure we cleared the tall pine trees at the end of the runway. I think there were a couple of silent prayers lifted up.

We all fastened our safety belts extra tight as the pilot turned the plane around and sat on the brakes while revving the engines up to the maximum RPM. When he released the brakes, the plane jumped forward as if it was propelled. He had some really strong engines on the plane.

Well, obviously, you know the answer because I'm telling this tale now, some 20+ years later. With the fast airspeed and full flaps, we cleared the trees at the end of the runway. When we later landed at Esler Field, our pilot had calmed down a bit and was picking pine twigs out of his landing gear (or so it seemed). We looked at the manifest which said...we were to land at the Fort Beulow Airport in Pineville. Our new dispatcher, trying to be efficient in his job, had landed us at the closest airport to the Supervisor's Office....it was about a mile away. In retrospect, I should have listed our destination as Esler Field instead of the SO. Our regular Forest Service pilot would have known what to do when he saw the manifest but he wasn't available. I learned something that day.

Why Ft Beulow Airport was still on the charts is still a mystery. We laugh at the story today but on that day, we were not laughing. Guess the Good Lord and a good pilot took care of the bunch of us as the Boss and I lived to "fly another day".

A bus station is where a bus stops – a train station is where a train stops. On my desk I have a work station.

Anonymous

EDITOR'S NOTE

Many thanks to our story contributors – We appreciate your contribution to *The Dixie Ranger!*

So many of you express enjoyment and appreciation of stories written by our members. We're sure that many more of you could contribute very entertaining experiences by picking up your pen and paper, or if you are connected with the internet, just sit down and start writing. You'll be surprised by how the words flow – don't worry about your format – the editors will gladly correct any glaring errors; however, to make for more entertaining reading, we try to "keep the flavor" of your writing.

Our "reserve stash" is **depleted** with this issue! So, how about sending some stories of your past work experiences, your current volunteer involvement, or your special family travels and celebrations. Our memories are triggered by reading names of people and places mentioned in these stories! One or two pages is a perfect length, longer too. Photographs are also welcomed. We are working on getting colored photos back into the newsletter.

Was your information correct in the March 2012 Directory? **If not, let us know.**

Now, enjoy another good story.....

SAFETY ON THE NF's IN TEXAS

by *Larry Trezell*

When I transferred to the National Forests in Texas, Trinity Ranger District at Groveton, from the Kamas District of the Uinta National Forest in Utah, in 1962, each district had a Safety Officer and the Supervisor's Office had a Forest Safety Officer, usually the Forest Engineer. Charlie Jefferson was the Forest Engineer, followed by Lynwood Smelser, Ralph Fair and another two or three in there somewhere. One day, I was out on the district with prescriber Gene Cocke to look at an area he was prescribing and had some doubts about the stand delineation. As we walked through the woods, my right leg suddenly dropped out of sight, up to my crotch. I received scrapes and abrasions on the inside of the leg, but doctored it myself at home because if you had an accident resulting in a "medical" or lost time, you were raked over the coals, so to speak. Well, I had stepped on a rusty piece of tin covering an old cistern, and 110 percent hidden by leaves, needles and other vegetative litter, making it impossible to differentiate it from any other part of the forest floor. But I had to file a report. In those days, that was a rigorous exercise which was designed to make you think about not having another accident. The report went in, and I waited on pins and needles for the "sentence". The Forest Safety Officer had to write something analytical and stern, and pointing out the victim's laxity, or he was considered remiss in his duty. When the report came back, the sentence was: "Trezell should be counseled to not walk on trash piles."

But, folks, "that don't take the prize". And you will not believe this one! It happened on the Yellowpine District, probably under Ranger Bobby Young or Keith Utz, I don't rightly remember...but the accident victim (I won't mention his name because of the embarrassing nature of the accident, although he has been deceased for over 30 years) was a member of a crew repainting land lines. They stopped for lunch, ate, and then this poor fellow needed to go to the "woods bathroom". He stepped

out of sight, and momentarily the crew heard a ghastly scream. He had squatted down, and a coachwhip snake, as snakes will do, struck and swallowed what it thought was another snake's head. The poor fellow grabbed it and pulled it off himself, causing lacerations and urgent medical attention. I don't know what the FSO's sentence was on that one, because it was kept top secret. And, until the victim retired, if you wanted a fight, just mention the accident.

Later on, when I was assigned to the Tenaha Ranger District in 1966, we had the old Dreka Work Center main building that was a dinosaur, with a steep roof and high walls and loft, open stud walls, and not much ventilation. In the mid-70's, timber marker Jim Vaughn came to work one hot summer morning and, as he walked in, a red wasp dipped down from the loft and stung him on the ear. He was highly allergic and carried medication, but still had to be taken to the doctor for treatment. The sentence came back on that one, "Employee should be counseled to not agitate wasps." Needless to say, some of my memories are "LuLu's"!!

NOTES FROM THE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

May 2012

More than 25,000 items have been cataloged on a searchable database of an estimated 42,000 historical items in the Museum Collection and the Forest Service Harvey Mack Collection. Members and friends continue to donate important items.

Historical materials donated include, recently cataloged and scanned, 66 slides of the World War II Emergency Rubber Project managed by the Forest Service in California. The project cultivated guayule plants to produce rubber for the war effort. The slides are part of the Northern Region Archives long-term loan to the Museum.

The Coronado National Forest in Arizona recently donated 33 paper signs used during the 1960s and 1970s and are no longer used by the agency. A fire-prevention sign dates from 1968, warning hunters "FOREST FIRES RUIN SPORT", picturing a fire flame with a fleeing deer.

An eight-pound concrete Forest Shield was donated by Carl W. Hickerson of Scottsdale, Arizona. A corpsman made the shield for the Mission Creek Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp, located near Monterey County Hearst Ranch Headquarters, California. The CCC Camp closed on 31 July 1942. Soon after, Carl found the shield hanging in the abandoned CCC office.

Ever wonder how many artifacts have been received from the Southern Region?

The Museum will hold its 2012 Annual Meeting on September 20, 2012 during the Forest Service Reunion in Vail, Colorado. The noon annual meeting luncheon is open to all **members and interested individuals**. Interpretive planning for the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center will be a focus of the meeting, and board members and volunteers will be available to answer your questions. Visit www.fsreunion2012.com to register for the Reunion.

R-8 needs more members to represent our interest in the history of the Forest Service.....

A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song. Lou Holtz

Membership Application

Fill out, detach and mail to: National Museum of Forest Service History, P.O. Box 2772,
Missoula, MT 59806-2772

Mr. Ms. Dr. Name: _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ New Renewal Gift*

To receive your newsletter at the e-mail address above, check here .

Membership Categories Annual Dues

Individual	\$30 or more	Sustaining	\$300 or more
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Student	\$15 or more	Life	\$1000 or more
Contributing	\$150 or more		

*My/our gift to the Museum is made in **MEMORY** of: _____

*My/our gift to the Museum is made in **HONOR** of: _____

The National Museum of Forest Service History has been determined by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization. Tax ID 81-0454269

MEMORIAL DONATIONS TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FOREST SERVICE HISTORY

For a one-time donation of \$100 or more, the National Museum of Forest Service History offers a special Forest Service History Memorial to honor living and deceased persons. Current, former or retired employees or persons or groups of persons who have contributed to the mission of the Forest Service are eligible.

A memorial grove on the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center grounds in Missoula, MT honors all persons accepted for the Forest Service History Memorial. Persons are recognized in a memorial book and on the NMFSH website. www.nmfs-history.net Please contact the Museum if you have questions.

Never tell people how to do things...tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.
George Patton

The following short story, "A Day in The Life", was sent to us several years ago and we apologize if it's already appeared in *The Dixie Ranger*. We still enjoy reading of this poor fella's dilemma. (The earlier story of the Forest Service accident reports triggered our memory.)

Dear Sir:

I am writing in response to your request for additional information in block number 3 of the accident reporting form, I put "trying to do the job alone, as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully, and I trust that the following details will be sufficient.

I am a bricklayer by trade. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new six-story building. When I completed my work, I discovered that I had about 500 pounds of brick left over. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley which fortunately was attached to the side of the building, at the sixth floor. Securing the rope at ground level, I went up the roof, swung the barrel out and loaded the brick into it. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 500 pounds of bricks. You will note in block number 11 of the accident reporting form, that I weigh 135 pounds.

Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the building.

In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming down. This explains the fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two-knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time I regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground – and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the bricks, the barrel now weighed approximately 50 pounds.

I refer you again to my weight, in block number 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of bricks and fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the bricks in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel six stories above me – I again lost my presence of mind – I LET GO OF THE ROPE.

Do You Have ICE (In Case of Emergency) Numbers in Your Phone?

Today, most of us have cell phones which are a vital part of our staying connected with our families and providing security when we are away from home, especially on the road. ICE numbers listed in your cell phone may help rescue personnel quickly contact someone with vital information regarding your life or death situation. Select a person, or persons, you want in your cell phone under ICE. It only takes a few seconds and it could help save your life.

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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR EXTENSION
Southern Forest Service Retirees Association

Date: _____

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ Apt. #: _____

City / State: _____ Nine-Digit Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Retired From: _____

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

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thru 2012

REMINDER – On your mailing label area, the number following your name is the year through which your dues are **paid** - if you have 2011, or earlier, you owe dues!

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