THE DIXIE RANGER

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Southern Forest Service Retirees Association

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The 2018 Forest Service Retirees National Reunion in Asheville is only seven months away. Have you registered?
The discount of $45 ends March 31st. **Form is on page 6.**

Southern Region launches 'Million-Acre Challenge'

By Ken Arney
Acting Regional Forester

Before being named the 18th Chief of the U. S. Forest Service, then-Regional Forester Tony Tooke shared an ambitious vision for the future of conservation with me. He proposed an idea to increase the pace and scale of restoration to unparalleled levels, particularly in the Southern Region's longleaf pine ecosystem. Once dominating the landscape in the coastal plain, longleaf pine forests historically covered approximately 90 million acres across the South. That changed at the height of the Industrial Revolution, when overharvesting and lack of conservation greatly diminished the longleaf forests as the trees were used to produce turpentine and other valuable forest products. By the end of the 20th century, only 3.4 million acres remained, a more than 97 percent decrease.

Recognizing the need to take action to conserve and eventually replenish the longleaf pine ecosystem, the Southern Region joined with a broad coalition of businesses, nonprofits, and state and federal agencies to form America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative, and through this program, a goal was set to restore roughly 8 million acres of longleaf pine by 2025.

Despite all of our good intentions, we knew that achieving this goal would be an uphill battle. In fact, without a drastic increase in the pace and scale of restoration of longleaf pine stands on both public and private lands, it may be virtually impossible to meet the 2025 goal.

The Southern Region launched "The Million Acre Challenge" in October 2017 in a bid to give a much-needed boost to longleaf restoration efforts on National Forest System lands, with the ultimate goal and the Chief's commitment to longleaf restoration in mind. The challenge culminates a 2-year effort to identify opportunities and methods to increase the pace and scale of longleaf pine restoration. National forests in eight states across the region are participating in the challenge. Currently, these forests are home to more than 853,000 acres of longleaf pine forestland.

Through this challenge, the Forest Service is making a clear statement on the importance of longleaf restoration. When all is said and done, it is the single largest contribution to the efforts of the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative. The effort is a reaffirmation of the commitment we have to the public we serve, demonstrating our creativity to finding new and innovative ways to deliver our mission. It's a testament to the effective public-private partnerships with shared leadership we've helped form to tackle these important restoration projects.

While we've already performed the exhaustive efforts of identifying where we have substantial restoration opportunities, the real work now begins. I thank the Forest Service personnel on the forests taking part in the challenge. It's through their efforts that the Forest Service continues to serve as a leader in restoration work across the region to improve forest conditions.

SFSRA RETIREES GET TOGETHER

Northeast Atlanta – Retirees, spouses, and friends meet 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 Hill Village Shopping Center Contact: Nancy Sorrells 770-469-5799.

Cobb County Georgia – Retirees, spouses, and friends meet the last Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the Kennesaw Whistle Stop Cafe, 1200 Earnest Barrett Parkway, Suite #10, Kennesaw, Georgia 30144. Contact: Sonny Cudabac scudabac@mindspring.com.

Cherokee National Forest – Retirees, spouses, and friends meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in Cleveland, Tennessee, Contact: Kaye Shelton, 423-338-5910.

Ouachita National Forest - Retirees, spouses, and friends meet for breakfast the third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in the Cornerstone Shopping Center, Hot Springs, Arkansas. Contact: Jim Wenner, 501-525-8284, jimwenner@cablelynx.com

Jefferson National Forest – Retirees, spouses, and friends get together at noon on the 2nd Wednesday of **even** numbered months at the Roanoker Restaurant in Roanoke, Virginia. 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. Contact: Eddie Riddle, edjoriddle@aol.com.

Highlands - Robbinsville - Franklin - Murphy North Carolina Area – Retirees, spouses, and friends meet at 11:30 a.m. for lunch the last Wednesday of every month in Franklin. Contact George Lynch for the location as it may be in a different place each month. (georgelynch@verizon.net (828) 369-9722).

Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests - FM&S Retirees meet for lunch the 2nd Wednesday of April and 4th Wednesday of October. For further details, contact: Ed Hedgecock engineerhedge@aol.com. You may also contact Glenda Wood (803) 563-5498 woodjg46@outlook.com.

The National Forest in Florida - Contacts are Johnnie Croft 5156 Shaw Street, Sanderson, FL 32087 (386-752-7325) or Joann Webb (Missoumiss@comcast.net).

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas – Retirees, spouses, and friends meet for lunch the 3rd Thursday of each month, 11:15 AM, at the Golden Corral in Lufkin, TX. Contact: Carolyn Hughes, 936-875-3328, carohug@hotmail.com or Gay Ippolito, 936-632-4852, gipp_253@yahoo.com

National Forests in Alabama – Retirees, spouses, and friends meet for lunch the 1st Wednesday in February, April, June, August, October, and December at 11:15 AM, McAlister's Restaurant in Prattville. Contact: Bill Fadden, 334-285-0962.

Ozark-St. Francis retirees meet for breakfast at 8:00 A.M. on the first Friday of each month at the Old South restaurant in Russellville, AR. Contact O.D. Smith at 479-968-3287 or odnpat@suddenlink.net.

José Castro Tapped to Lead Southern Region's Forest Management Program

The Southern Region of the U. S. Forest Service has announced that José Castro will be the new regional director of Forest Management. Castro most recently worked in the Intermountain Region as special assistant to the regional forester. In Atlanta, Castro will oversee one of the largest regional timber programs in the nation, consisting of 13.3 million acres of national forest system lands in 13 states and Puerto Rico. "José spent four months with us as acting director of Forest Management in 2017," Acting Regional Forester Ken Arney said. "I am thrilled to have someone of Jose's experience and expertise leading our timber program in the Southern Region."

A Forest Service veteran of 28 years, Castro's career has taken him to three regions and five national forests. He also served in the U.S. Army Special Forces as a Green Beret. Castro began his Forest Service career in the Southern Region as a forestry technician on the Jefferson National Forest in 1990 and served on a detail assignment with the Asheville Interagency Hot Shots fighting wildfires. He also spent time as a forester, planner and fire staff officer on the Uwharrie Ranger District in North Carolina. Castro's career has included leadership experience as a district ranger, deputy forest supervisor and acting Sawtooth National Forest supervisor. His multi-regional experience stems from detail assignments as acting director of Information Management and acting director of Lands and Minerals in the Intermountain Region, acting director of Forest Management in the Southern Region and acting deputy director of Fire and Aviation Management in the Northern Region. Castro holds a bachelor's degree in environmental science and an associate degree in natural resource management/forestry from SUNY Plattsburgh in New York. He and his wife Janet have two married sons and a daughter in college, and an 8-month-old granddaughter named Cecilia. Castro began working in Atlanta on February 5.

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Friday, June 8th Luncheon / Business Meeting

Make plans to attend the **Friday June 8th** luncheon & business meeting! Members and guests will gather in Atlanta at the Petite Violette, 2948 Clairmont Rd., Atlanta 30329, at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Reservations are necessary by **June 5th** and can be made by calling Nancy Sorrells at 770 469-5799 or Joyce Keith at 404-229-9888 – leave a message on their answering machine if you do not reach one of them. **It is important to let either Nancy or Joyce know if you find that you are unable to attend after you have made a reservation** because **we are charged** for the number of reservations turned in the day before the luncheon.

Have you visited the SFSRA Web Sites?

The Southern Forest Service Retirees Association has a web site. It is **www.southernforestretirees.org**. Alan Pigg, the web master, needs pictures of our region, groups, etc. Please send items to **sfsra@hotmail.com**. We are also on Facebook. Watch the 2018 Reunion web site **http://2018.fsreunions.org/** for information as we develop plans for getting together in Asheville, NC, September 24 – 28, 2018.
National Museum of Forest Service History: https://www.forestservicemuseum.org/
National Association of Forest Service Retirees: http://www.nafsr.org/

2018 Forest Service Retirees National Reunion

Registration Discount of $45 Ends March 31st – Register Now!

September 24, 2018, is just around the corner. After a beautiful spring and wonderful summer it will be time to gather in Asheville. The Crowne Plaza Golf & Tennis Resort is not fully booked yet but we have more than 300 retirees registered.

The Field Trip Committee has several adventures for us to choose from including a special tour of The Biltmore Estates and Cradle of Forestry. (see article later in this DR.) The free shuttle downtown, a mile away, will provide opportunities to explore Asheville. The Reunion emphasis is on time for us to visit with friends and co-workers we might have not seen for a while and to limit the time spent in general sessions. However, the general sessions will be nothing short of outstanding. Those agreeing to spend time with us include Bibi Gaston, Chase Pickering, the North Carolina State Forester, the Forest Service Chief and the USDA Secretary is working to free up his calendar to attend, also. Go to the our web site for more information about the planned program.

The Crowne Plaza Resort has called those registered for the Reunion to book their room reservations. To ensure only those attending the Reunion get the special low rate of $119 / $139 per night, only those registered for the Reunion are able to book a room. **So, register now**. The web site is **http://2018.fsreunions.org/index.htm**. A few days after John Lamb receives your registration, you should receive a call or email message from the Crowne Plaza Resort. **Remember the discounted rate of $200 goes back to the regular rate of $245 after March 31st. So, register now**.

Also, please remember, the Reunion is also a fund raiser for the National Museum of Forest Service History (NMFSH). All monies left over after paying reunion expenses will be donated to the Museum. Charlie Richmond is heading up the fund raising committee. He is looking for donations, sponsors, those wanting exhibit booth space, advertisers, etc. He needs your help. We are an affiliate of the NMFSH and therefore a non-profit 501.c.3 organization. Charlie can be reached at csrichmond60@gmail.com.

The silent auction is a large fundraiser for the 2018 Reunion. It is a way for Artisans to make their work known through many areas of the country. At present, quilts, handmade knives, paintings, wood turnings, and much more has been donated. Also, several Forest Service artifacts have been donated for purchase and donation to the museum. Look in your area for local or regional items that will be of interest or you may have a skill or talent to create an item that will be an item for bid. Bob James' email is bjandsj@bellsouth.net. His home phone number is 770-205-8133. Looking forward to hearing from ya,ll.

Banquet entertainment with be with a Southern / Appalachian flavor.

This is a very brief synopsis of what is being planned. Get involved. **Get registered**!

Questions? Web site is: http://2018.fsreunions.org/html or call Sid Haggard at 678-644-7240.

Registration Form
2018 Forest Service Retirees National Reunion
Asheville, North Carolina
September 24-28, 2018

Complete this form and mail it with a check to: SFSRA 2018 Reunion, Attn: John Lamb, 1456 Threepine Pl., Lilburn, GA 30047

Retiree Contact Information (please print clearly)

Name:_____

Street Address:_____

City and State_____ Zip_____

Phone:_____email:_____

Year retired (YYYY):_____ FS unit(s) worked in (optional):_____
Do you have special requirements? If so someone will contact you. Yes___ No____

Companion Contact Information (please print clearly)

Name:_____

Address same as above? Yes_____

Street Address:_____

City and State_____ Zip_____

Phone:_____email:_____

Year retired (YYYY):_____ FS unit(s) worked in (optional):_____
Do you have special requirements? If so someone will contact you. Yes____No____

Number of Early Registration (before March 31, 2018):___@ $200 Each Amount Due: $_____
(after March 31, 2018): ___@ $245 Each Amount Due: $_____
Check number _____ Date_____ **Make Check Payable To: SFSRA 2018 Reunion**

Hotel Reservations:
Crowne Plaza Resort room reservations cannot be made by calling the Resort. We will provide them a list of those who register for the reunion and want a room at the Crowne Plaza. After you register and want a room, the Crowne Plaza Resort will call you to book your room. Do you want to be included on the list for a room at the Crowne Plaza? **YES_____NO_____**

Questions? Contact John Lamb via email: jwl2018@outlook.com

2018 Forest Service Retirees National Reunion

Field Trips

It's time to begin thinking about what you and your friends will do on your free day (Wednesday). We are putting the finishing touches on an exciting line up of field trips tailored specifically to our Forest Service history. Field trip contracts should be finalized by late March and registered Reunion participants will be invited to sign up in early April, 2018.

Cradle of Forestry Field Trip: Depart hotel directly after breakfast and return by 4 pm. Lunch will be provided at the Cradle. Cost of the tour anticipated to be less than $100 per person. The tour is limited to 100 participants. An accessible coach bus will pick up participants at the Crowne Plaza directly after breakfast. A professional tour guide will provide information and insights as you tour along the Blue Ridge Parkway to the Cradle. At the Cradle, expect a leisurely experience including, two unique presentations by a musician-story-teller and an Appalachian author. The Cradle staff will guide a short walk and participants will be able to walk and explore the Cradle site, on their own. The walk is level and well signed. The Cradle of Forestry grounds, museum, and gift shop will be available throughout the tour.

Biltmore Field Trip: Depart the hotel directly after breakfast and return by 3pm. Lunch will be provided at the Biltmore. Cost of the tour will be $105 plus an additional fee for transportation across town to/from the Biltmore Estate. We currently are working to finalize the transportation fee. The tour is limited to 100 participants. The Biltmore tour will be a unique "behind the house" tour focusing on the sites behind the locked gate. The tour group will be broken up into small groups of 25 to meet with Biltmore interpreters at designated sites through the morning. A buffet lunch will be served at the Deerpark Restaurant on the Estate. The Biltmore package includes a complimentary standard admission to the Biltmore House. You will be able to use this admission any time after the field tour, including the same day. After lunch you will be able to explore the Estate or the House. Depending on final contract arrangements with the transportation company, participants will return in the early afternoon. If you decide to further tour the House and the Grounds, plan on making your private transportation arrangements through local services such as uber, lyft, taxi, etc.

Southern Research Station Field Trip: Southern Research Station Director Rob Doudrick will provide a tour of the Bent Creek Experimental Forest. The Forest is a short drive south of Asheville and is a popular destination for hikers and bikers. Station employees will provide an update on ongoing research. The tour will be approximately ½ day, either in the morning or afternoon. Participants will be responsible for their own transportation and refreshments. There will be no tour fee (so long as you've paid your taxes). Sign up will take place early in the week at the Crowne Plaza hotel at a TBA designated location. Maximum Capacity: Flexible.

Asheville on you own: The Asheville area is rich in sights and experiences. For example, due to the length of the day at the Cradle, we were not able to include a visit to the Sierra Nevada Brewery featured on our website. The Explore Asheville Convention & Visitor Bureau will have a booth in the Crowne Plaza lobby all week with information about other touring opportunities.

2017 Southern Forest Service Retirees Financial Statement
Wednesday, January 3, 2018
Prepared by Tom Tibbs, Treasurer

Assets			
	Checking Account Balance Jan 1, 2016		$1,321.25
	Dues Paid-1/1/17 to 1/2/18		$2,910.00
	Cash Donation		$15.00
	CD # 116842 Redemption		$2,305.53
	Total Cash		$6,551.78
Expenses			
	Dixie Ranger (March 2017 Printing & Mailing)	$1,097.98	
	Dixie Ranger (July 2017 Printing & Mailing)	$709.92	
	Dixie Ranger (November 2017 Printing & Mailing)	$745.44	
	Constant Contact Program (Sonny Cudabac)		
	Website - (Go Daddy (Alan Pigg)	$49.00	
	Internet Domain (Alan Pigg)	$49.00	
	NFS Museum SFSRA Pledge	$500.00	
	Forest History Society Membership		
	Miscellaneous Postage (Peggy Jolly) 2017	$225.00	
	June Meeting (decorations, door prizes, comp meals)	$82.00	
	Dec. Meeting (decorations, door prizes, comp meals)		
	Total Expenses	$3,458.34	$3,458.34
	Cash Balance (12/04/2017)		$3,093.44
	Certificates of Deposit		
	CD 116104 Bank of Marion (1/7/2018)	$2,312.90	
	Total Certificates of Deposit		$2,312.90
	Total Assets		$5,406.34

The CCC - A Proud Heritage & Continuing Legacy

By Jeff Olson, retired soil scientist, U.S. Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest

During my career in natural resources inventory and conservation, I covered untold miles and acres over a variety of lands and waters and in all seasons of the year. In this memorable journey, I saw first-hand not only some of man's neglect of our natural resources but also much of his stewardship in providing restoration, preservation and productivity to those resources. This journey also included many historical sites which represent some of America's rich conservation heritage. Among these are the remnants of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps which are subtle but stirring reminders of a very consequential era of our history.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the federal government under President Franklin Roosevelt's administration implemented a number of programs to improve the nations fledgling economy. One of these was the CCC, which was first proposed in March 1933 by the President under the authority of the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Act as part of his New Deal program. Eighty five years ago this spring, April 5, 1933, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 6101 which officially established the CCC as an agency. The CCC provided employment for young unmarried men from families on public relief roles while at the same time addressing the nation's natural resource conservation needs. Enrollees also included veterans of World War I, Native Americans and African Americans. Local experienced men, called "LEMs," were chosen to provide the needed expertise in specific fields, particularly those areas related to conservation and construction.

CCC jobs were directly related to the conservation and development of natural resources in rural lands owned by federal, state and local governments. To participate, young men had to be in good health and between the ages of 18 and 26, though it was later expanded from 17 to 28. They were provided shelter, food and clothing and payed $30 per month, $25 of which had to be sent home to their families. Enlistment was for a duration of six months, although many re-enlisted after their allotted time was up. Camps were set up in all states, as well as in Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. They were supervised by reserve officers from the U.S. Army. CCC workers performed over 100 types of work, including planting trees, fighting forest fires, constructing roads, trails, recreation areas, cabins, lodges, amphitheaters, and bathhouses in forests and parks, building dams to control flooding and observation towers for forest fire detection, and running telephone lines. Maximum enrollment peaked at over 500,000 in over 2,600 camps in 1935 and during the life of the program over 2.5 million men participated.

During the nine years of its operation, CCC accomplishments included planting nearly 3 billion trees, constructing more than 800 parks and more than 3,470 fire towers, building 28,000 miles of hiking trails, 97,000 miles of roads and 47,000 bridges, running 4,000 miles of telephone lines, and improving most state parks. In addition to all of the conservation work done on the ground, the CCC led to a greater public awareness and appreciation of the great outdoors and America's natural resources. The CCC ceased field operations as of June 30, 1942 and was officially terminated in 1943 due mainly to the re-direction of people and resources needed for World War II. However, vestiges of its impressive achievements are still with us today, and much of their workmanship is still in operation to the benefit of our enjoyment and the continuation of a proud heritage.

In our own back yard, on the Ouachita National Forest, we still enjoy the fruits of CCC labor in recreation areas and campgrounds such as: Shady Lake, Bard Springs, Charlton, Collier Springs, Iron Springs, and Cedar Lake; and picnic areas, hiking trails, and scenic overlooks such as Sugar Creek Vista; and Arkansas state parks such as Devil's Den, Petit Jean, and Lake Catherine.

So, on our next trip to the national forest, state park or other place where the CCC left a part of its legacy, what do you say we pause for a moment and remember with gratitude and respect those young Americans who gave their prime to make the beauty of God's creation a more special place for you and I and our families to enjoy, care for, and pass on to future generations.

Sugar Creek Vista, circa 1936. This scenic overlook, on the Mena Ranger District, was built by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 742 in 1935.

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Patriotism---our red, white and blue

John Arrechea

The American Heritage College Dictionary defines patriotism as " love of and devotion to one's country."

Whether one's country is at war or at peace, patriotism should be experienced 365 days of the year. A patriotic ceremony should stir our emotions.

The phrase, "under God" was added to the pledge by Congress on June 14,1954, by President Eisenhower. He said ," In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith.

In Lafayette County Schools, at 7:55 each morning, four of the second graders gather in the principal's office, use the school's intercom and lead the elementary grades in the pledge to the American flag. Wouldn't it be great if every child in America begin their day of education by saying the pledge to the American flag!!

Arbor Day is celebrated each year in Oxford, MS. As part of the tree planting ceremony, local ROTC Color Guard Units presents the American Flag, while the Boy Scouts lead the Pledge.

Local veteran organizations sponsor Memorial Day and Veterans Day. It is our American privilege and duty to attend both of these ceremonies, paying tribute to all veterans and to honor those that paid the supreme sacrifice.

During the 1930's, W. C. Hill served in the Civilian Conservation Corps, enrolled in Oxford. He recalled, at the end of each work day we would change into our Class 'A' uniform, fall in, stand at attention, saluting the American Flag as it was being lowered. That was a great way to end our work day. I will never forget that.

THE CARPOOL

Jack Callahan with input by Mike Sparks and John Greis
(Jerry Wicker and Don Phillips were unavailable)

Having ridden in carpools at numerous duty stations, Atlanta was just one more to be added to the list. The first I joined in the early few weeks was somewhat different from previous pools. There were eight individuals including me in the pool. When I asked how this would work, I was informed that seldom more than five riders in town at one time due to out to town travel. And this was true, as I can only recall one or two times in the first couple of years when two vehicles were needed.

Some things that were observed of other drivers in our daily trips seemed outrageous at first, but became commonplace. Things like applying false eyebrows, eyeliner, lipstick and the installation of contacts at red lights was common. Another red light favorite seemed to be expelling spittle after brushing teeth, or mouthwash through an open window or door. And some admiration of attractive members of the opposite sex and occasional hand gestures were noticed.

While motoring down the highway at or above posted speed limits introduced different activities and events. Smoking and reading the morning Atlanta Journal at 70 mph while drinking coffee gave pause. One might notice a six or eight foot wooden step ladder in the center lane going to work, and a smear of sawdust on the pavement in the same location on the way home.

One of our members loved to gather salvaged items, and a piece of firewood lying on the side of the road guaranteed a stop to pick it up. Another might stop and get a six pack of beer and suck one down on the way home. Yet another only bought gas and had prescriptions filled while the rest of us waited in the sweltering heat of an August afternoon. And then there was the partial disrobing by one to self-administer (thank goodness) insulin. Many other events occurred or were observed during the almost two hour round trip to Peachtree street each day. Many of which will remain with the members.

As time went on, as with all carpools, the members of the pool change for various reasons. Primarily this was due to people transferring out of the RO. Over time the core of our group settled in on five persons: Mike Sparks, John Greis, Jerry Wicker, Don Phillips and myself. As with any group, there becomes a need for rules, beginning very simple at first, but like all bureaucracies, they morph into a need to handle all problems, no matter how minor. And these rules begin to develop teeth.

Our group set up a simple process for adding or amending a carpool rule.....simple majority was all that was need, with a quorum of three. This was done to catch a member out and pass a rule to restrict that person's behavior deemed a problem to the majority.

The first problem which developed was everyone arriving at the designated car park in the morning where we would all carpool from there to work. We were supposed to meet at 6:00 am sharp, and there was always someone who would be a few minutes late. After dealing with this annoyance for several months, we imposed a rule that there would be a five minute grace period, and after that the pool would leave the offending party. This was not too bad, as everyone had to drive to get there anyway.

We generally drove a week at a time, on a rotation, and whose ever time it was to drive was responsible for the parking pass for the garage. Someone would invariably forget to bring the pass, so a rule was passed such that whoever was responsible for the pass had to pay for the parking in the back surface parking lot. And the rule forced the person to park there, rather than three or four blocks away to avoid the fee. There was also a rule that each month we would rotate through the group the responsibility to purchase the next month’s parking pass. Failure to purchase it on a timely manner meant that person had to pay for parking in the back lot till the pass was obtained.

By this time we had begun to keep a log of the rules, as they were adding up, and if we had a new member wanting to join the pool, they would have to agree to all the rules ahead of time. This may have caused several potential members to look elsewhere, but rules are rules. There were no rules about having to drive a vehicle with air conditioning thank goodness. I was the only one who was so unequipped, and it was warm in Atlanta in July and August. But the heater did work in my 64 Belair.

One of the most important rules had to do with establishing a specific time to leave work. Leaving someone in the morning was not given a second thought, but it was a long way to Snellville from Peachtree Street without a car. This rule developed over a lengthy period of time, with first just a lot of grousing and cursing. A couple of members would invariably get on the phone just at quitting time and could not bring themselves to telling the party on the line that they had to leave. After numerous trips up to an offender's office to hurry them along, we set a time limit of ten minutes late grace period and then it was a dollar a minute for each and every minute more before the offender made it to the car. The money would of course go toward the next month's parking pass, with the difference in what was remaining to be paid was split equally among all members, so the offender was not given a break on their share. This threat seemed to work quite well for a while, especially on some members who watched their money very closely. But as time wore on, a few dollars now and then did not seem to curtail the offense. This brought about the most difficult rule of all, the Leave Behind Rule. While there was a lot of discussion and some disagreement on this topic, the simple thing to do was bring it to a vote when the primary offenders were in travel status, and we had a quorum of likeminded members. As expected, the rule passed three to nothing. A part of the rule would be that the offending member would be given a warning after 15 or 20 minutes had passed to save themselves from punishment.

As far as I can recall, the Leave Behind Rule was only invoked once. Jerry Wicker was the person who was in violation and sentence was served. I believe he took a cab home. But he was a good sport, and continued on in the carpool. .but I do not remember him being that late again. I transferred to the Cherokee in the next year.

Somewhere I am sure the Carpool rules live on in some form or another. All things eventually end, and all in that carpool are now happily retired.

* * * * *

The Winter Boots

(*Anyone who has ever dressed a child will love this****)***

Did you hear about the teacher who was helping one of her pupils put on his boots? He asked for help and she could see why. Even with her pulling, and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on. By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost cried when the little boy said, 'Teacher, they're on the wrong feet.' She looked, and sure enough, they were.

Unfortunately, it wasn't any easier pulling the boots off, than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as, together, they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the correct feet. He then announced, 'These aren't my boots.' She bit her tongue, rather than get right in his face and scream, 'Why didn't you say so?' like she wanted to.

Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet. No sooner had they got the boots off when he said, 'They're my brother's boots. But my Mom made me wear 'em today.' Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. But she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots BACK onto his feet again. Helping him into his coat, she asked, “Now, where are your mittens?” He said, “I stuffed them in the toes of my boots.”

She'll be eligible for parole in three years.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles Alford Blankenship

George B. Hemingway, Jr.

Jim Herd

Casa Hardee Jerrels

Ricky Lynn Lowe

James P. Scott

David Wayne Shepherd

James E. Webb

Audrey R. Williams

Donald H. Wilmore

Bobby Gene Young

Charles Alford (Charlie, Chuck) Blankenship, 84, of Roanoke, VA, passed on to the Heavenly Forest in the early hours of January 7, 2018. He was born on April 17, 1933, in Richmond, VA, the only child of the late Reginald and Alice Blankenship. Charlie was the jolly green giant of outdoor recreation in Southwest Virginia. For over two decades he led development of great recreation facilities on Jefferson National Forest lands. He moved to Roanoke VA in 1966 to plan and organize the new Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. During his years with the Forest Service he saw potential for an old abandoned road which became known as The Virginia Creeper Trail. He helped develop wilderness areas, Cascades National Recreation Trail, the cooperative management system for the Appalachian Trail, High Knob Tower, and the Konnarock Trail Crew. Charlie is survived by his wife of 57 years, Kay; his daughter, Karen Hearst; son, William (Billy) and his wife, Leanne Blankenship; their gorgeous red head granddaughter, Lindsey Page and her husband, Taylor Williams; granddaughters and grandson.

George B. Hemingway, Jr., 79, passed away on December 9, 2017. Born in Panama City, FL, November 28, 1938, he moved to Umatilla, FL, in 1973 as District Ranger of the Ocala National Forest. In 1986 he moved to Atlanta, GA, where he retired in 2004 as Regional Special Use Coordinator, U.S. Forest Service. In 2009, George returned to Lake County. He was a 1961 graduate of the University of Florida, School of Forestry. George was an active member and former president of the Umatilla Kiwanis Club, an avid supporter of the Florida Gators, and could be frequently found on the tennis courts. He is survived by his wife: Judith "Judy" L. Hemingway, daughters: Jennifer A. Hemingway, (Col. Anthony G. Hoffman), Arlington, VA; Ashley G. Hildebrand (Chris), St. Augustine, FL; and three grandchildren.

Jim Herd, former Gainesville, GA resident, passed at his home. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, a son, daughter, son-in-law and three grandsons. Jim retired from the U. S. Forest Service after 31 years of service. A celebration of his life was held March 10, 2018 at St. Mark UMC on Quincy Street, Seneca, S.C. In lieu of flowers, donations made be made to OSU Pancreatic Care Research Fund #301352. P.O. Box 710811, Columbus, Ohio 43271-0811 or Oconee Hospice of the Foothills, 390 Keowee School Road, Seneca, S.C., 29672. (Full obituary and picture were not available at press time. They will be included in the next edition.)

Casa Hardee Jerrels, 77, of Hot Springs, AR., passed away November 6, 2017. He was born October 12, 1940, in Bronson, FL, to James and Cassie Lee (Hardee) Jerrels. He graduated from Bronson High School in 1958 and then served his country in the U. S. Air Force. He married the love of his life, Cheryl, in 1964. In 1975, he graduated with honors from the University of Arizona with a bachelor degree in landscape architecture. After graduating, he began working for the U. S. Forest Service, until his retirement in 1998. Hardee was a member of National Park Church and served many years as a deacon and elder. He loved God, his family and friends with all his heart. He enjoyed fishing, golfing, grilling and laughing till his sides hurt. Hardee was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law, Joe Beal. Survivors include his wife, Cheryl Ann Jerrels; son, Hardee David Jerrels (Memory); daughter, Alissa Land (Tommy) all of Hot Springs; brother, Jimmy Jerrels (Patti), of Bronson, FL; sister, Adene Beal. of Crawfordville, FL; three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren

Ricky Lynn Lowe, 67, of Paris, AR passed away November 26, 2017. He was born on December 15, 1949, in Paris to his parents, Richard and Jacqueline (Derrick) Lowe. He was a retired Federal Law Enforcement Officer for the U. S. Forest Service where he served for over thirty years. He worked as a deputy for the Logan County Sheriff's Department for the past fifteen years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Jacqueline (Derrick) Lowe and his father and mother-in-law, Jim and Alene Appleton. He is survived by his wife of forty-six years, Debbie (Appleton) Lowe of Paris; one daughter, Allison Needham and husband Tim of Paris; one son, Heath Lowe and wife Marla of Watson, OK; a sister, three brothers, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

James P. Scott (Jim), 81, of West Columbia and husband of Mary V. Strange Scott (Vicki), died November 2, 2017, following a brief illness. Jim was born June 3, 1936, in Washington, D.C. He was the only son of the late Walter Howard Scott and Marjorie Pierson Scott. He was raised working on the family farms in Virginia and in Council Grove, KS. He graduated from Western High School in Washington, DC. Jim attended Kansas State University. He served in the U. S. Navy as a submariner. Jim worked for the BLM and U. S. Forest Service. He began his career as a registered land surveyor in Alaska. He continued his education at the University of Alaska during this time and had many adventures in the Alaska wilderness. Jim then took an assignment that brought him to his hometown, Washington D.C. Back in Washington DC, he met the love of his life, Vicki. Jim's career took him all over the United States. He surveyed boundaries for the Kennedy Space Center, the Redwoods National Park, and then longer assignments with the U.S. Forest Service centers in Jackson, MS, Boise, ID and Columbia, SC. It was the time in Idaho that partnered Jim with the Boise Interagency Fire Center (BIFC). It was this partnership that allowed Jim to find his passion, working on forest fire suppression. This work matched the mapping skills Jim mastered as a surveyor with a new technology, infrared cameras. Jim could map forest fires using infrared technology and assign firefighting assets where they could safely do the most good. Jim retired from the U.S. Forest Service but continued to take fire calls and ran communications for fire camps for almost 20 years. He even accepted the call to assist and used his GPS mapping skills in the Space Shuttle Columbia recovery effort in 2003. He will be lovingly remembered by Vicki, his wife of 52 years; his children, Kathy Allumbaugh (Bob Huston) of Boise, ID. Sherrie Scott of Columbia, SC, Paula Nicholson (Dave) of Westminster, SC and Laurie Boyle (Randy) of Denver, CO.; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

David Wayne Shepherd, 75, of Jonesborough, TN, beloved husband, father and friend, passed away peacefully at home on December 19, 2017, surrounded by his loving family. Wayne was the son of the late Lester David and Rachel Rebecca Shepherd. He was born in Salisbury, NC, and graduated from Salisbury High School. He obtained a bachelor's degree in forestry from North Carolina State University. Wayne then went on to serve in the U. S. Forest Service for over 39 years. His long career with the U. S. Forest Service included timber cruising on the Savannah River Project, time as an assistant ranger on the Nantahala River District, and in offices in Asheville, NC, Washington, D.C., South Lake Tahoe, CA (El Dorado National Forest), Atlanta, GA, and Erwin, TN (Appalachian Trail Team Leader). After retirement, Wayne continued to actively advocate for the conservation of our nation's natural heritage. In retirement, Wayne served for over six years on the board of the Great Smoky Mountains Association, including a year as Chairman of the Board. Wayne's deep and abiding love for Jesus Christ was ever present and shaped every aspect of his life. Survivors include his wife Carolyn, daughters Sheri Shepherd-Pratt (Chris), Julie Shepherd-Powell (Adrian), two grandchildren, a brother, and a sister. Wayne was preceded in death by his brother Shelton Shepherd.

James E. Webb, 83, passed away November 7, 2017, following a lengthy illness at the Tucker Hospice House in Kannapolis, surrounded by his children. Born in Asheville, NC, Mr. Webb was a son of the late James Ernest and Nellie Creasman Webb. Jim was married for 61 years to Jeanne Bryan Webb, who died September 20th of this year. He was also preceded in death by siblings, Fred Baker and Sybil Baker Vess. Mr. Webb was a 1952 graduate of Swannanoa High School and a 1956 graduate of NC State University. He married Jeanne Bryan in 1956, and they enjoyed his 33 year career with the U. S. Forest Service, during which he and his family lived in many places across the country, including Montana and Alaska. Jim started his career as a Forester on the Croatan National Forest and retired as an Associate Deputy Chief of the U. S. Forest Service in Washington, D.C. Among other assignments, Jim was the Deputy Regional Forester for Administration in the Southern Region. Following his retirement from the Federal Government, he and Jeanne returned to the mountains they loved and grew up in. His passion of trees and plants was evident throughout his daily life. He is survived by daughters, Rebecca Webb Becker (Kurt) and Julia Webb Bradley (James); son, Paul Bryan Webb (Mary); nine grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; and a sister.

Audrey R Williams was born in Bienville Parish on May 27, 1923, to Carl and Lydia W. Williams. He passed away on January 8, 2018. Mr. Williams grew up in and around the Saline and Pine Ridge communities. In 1944, he married the love of his life, Edna Hattaway, and they raised four children. Audrey loved fiddling, farming, forestry and family. Audrey knew every inch of Kisatchie National Forest and could tell you where to find a stand of the native longleaf pines and where to see the nest of a red-cockaded woodpecker. He worked for the U. S. Forest Service for 35 years. He was a good steward of the land and cared about the old-growth forests in Winn Parish. He was proud to fight forest fires outside Louisiana including in Idaho, Michigan, Montana and Washington. He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Lydia; his son-in-law John Ray Koonce; and his brother Vester, and close friends Gilbert and Violet Palmer. He is survived by his devoted wife of 73 years, Edna; his daughter Patsy Gayle Koonce of Alexandria, LA; his daughter Lisa Williams and Michael Chevy Castranova of Cedar Rapids, IA; his daughter Vonda and James Oliver of Bay City, MI; his son Reggie and Cele Williams of Atlanta, GA; and many friends.

Donald H. Wilmore passed away November 14, 2017, at the age of 81. He was born December 13, 1935, to James and Bessie Wilmore. Donald, known to many as Hennie, graduated from Menard High School, class of 1954. He attended USL and NSU on a baseball scholarship, and was drafted as a pitcher in the minor league to the New York Yankees Organization. Donald served in the United States Navy from 1959 to 1962. Donald retired after 25 years with the U. S. Forest Service. He then owned and managed Chandlers Grocery Store. Donald served 16 years on the Rapides Parish Police Jury, with various titles. He was a faithful public servant and never met a stranger; he loved helping people especially the needy and those less fortunate. Donald also served as the State of LA Executive Board Commissioner, a board member on the Rapides Parish Fair Board, and a member of the American Legion. He was a parishioner of St. Rita Catholic Church, serving as an usher and on the finance committee. Donald and Betty were married 58 years and she was the love of his life. He was a wonderful devoted father and grandfather, who deeply loved his family. Donald was a traditional family man who was a generous and selfless soul. Those left to cherish his memory include his wife Betty Clair Kelso Wilmore; their children, Darrell Wilmore (Patsy), Stacie Wilmore Henagan (Darcy), and Lauri Wilmore Guillory; 5 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren, one brother, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two sons, Bart Wilmore and Eric Wilmore; parents, James Lester and Bessie Andries Wilmore; brothers, James "Jake" Wilmore, Harry Wilmore, and Chris Wilmore; and one sister, Margaret A. Wilmore.

Bobby Gene Young, age 83, of Owen Vista, Blairsville GA, passed away peacefully on Thursday October 26, 2017, in the Union County Nursing Home following an extended illness. Mr. Young was born on March 18, 1934, in Panama City, FL, the son of the late Fay O. Young and the late Mary Chamrad Young. Bobby was a veteran of the U. S. Air Force. He retired from the U. S. Forest Service after thirty-five years of service. His assignments included District Ranger. He was an avid golfer and had worked as Golf Course Superintendent for over ten years at Butternut Creek Golf Course. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Charletta Cooper Young, in 1983, his parents, a brother and two sisters. Surviving Mr. Young are his loving wife and best friend of thirty-two years, Carolyn Cochran Young of Blairsville, three sons, two daughters-in-law, one daughter and son-in-law, one brother and sister-in-law, and nine grandchildren,

* * *

When sending notices to Sonny Cudabac or the Dixie Ranger Editor, please include the name of the funeral home, newspaper, or other sources of additional information. Sometimes after searching the internet we cannot find a picture or information about the person's Forest Service career.

Thanks, DR Editor

Membership or Renewal Application

Southern Forest Service Retirees Association

Contact Information

Name	
Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Home Phone	
Spouse Name	
E-Mail Address	

Membership Dues

$15/year (First Year Free for new Retirees)

Amount enclosed?

Send completed application with payment to:
Clair Redmond
941 Northrope DR NE
Atlanta, GA 30324-4219

Membership in the SFSRA includes

___ Three issues per year of "*The Dixie Ranger*", issued March, July, and November.
___ Membership Directory, issued in March of each year
___ The opportunity to become published when articles are written for *"The Dixie Ranger*"
___ The most economical way to stay in touch with friends and co-workers
___ Email notification of events/activities/deaths, etc.
___ Provides an avenue for others to get in touch with you

MOONSHINE WHISKEY

Billy E. Page

Back in the early 60's I was Assistant District Ranger on the Tallulah Ranger District in Clayton, Georgia. Earl "Preach" Parson was the Ranger. Some of you may still remember Preach who was a legend in his own time. I left the office one morning to do field work on what we called "compartment prescriptions" in those days. These were multiple-use plans for future management decisions.

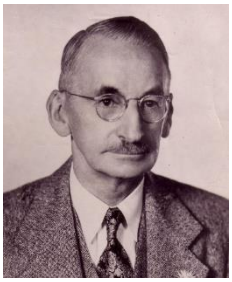
I drove up to a house on the west side of the District in the Lake Burton area. A red fire tool box was in place beside the road meaning that this person was a fire warden and cooperating with the USFS in fighting wild fires. These designated men attended our fire suppression training sessions and kept a crew of locals lined up for immediate fire action when called upon. The reason I came here was because the road across his private property was the only vehicle access into this particular compartment of about 2,000 acres. I parked at the gate, got out, walked upon the porch and knocked. The lady of the house came to the door. I introduced myself, told her my business and requested permission to drive across their property to do my work. She hesitated for a moment, but seeing that I was dressed in my Forest Service field uniform, complete with badge and nameplate, along with the green truck at the gate, she gave permission. In driving past the3 chicken houses I thought I caught a glimpse of someone watching me as I drove by but I paid no attention. In about a half mile down the road I entered a wooded area on government land and there in plain sight was the biggest still I'd ever seen with 5-6 mash vats working. What was I to do; turn around and leave or stay and work? I chose the latter. After running compass lines, taking sample plots, etc., I returned to the truck and whiskey still about 4:30 p.m. Everything was as I'd left it that morning. Driving out, I again stopped, went up to the house and thanked the lady. I did say to her that it would take another full day to finish the job and asked her if it would be okay if I returned after a few days. She nodded and said it would be okay. After I returned to the Ranger Station I didn't say a word about this to anyone, not even to Preach.

To the casual reader of today this would appear a dangerous approach, and truthfully there was some risk involved, but this way forward was not so troublesome as one might think for two reasons: No. 1- This man was a cooperator and a friend of the USFS. Over the years the rangers on the Tallulah had built a solid reputation with the local folks. The local people on the District knew the Rangers because the Rangers had worked hard at getting to know them. We had 20-30 of these fire wardens on the District, and some of them were boot-legging at the time or if not, many of them had in the past for example, we had 80+ employees on the District at that time and more than a few had spent hard time in jail having been convicted of making a more valuable product from their corn crop. In fact, in order to hire enough of satisfactory employees, we got an exemption from the Agency enabling us to hire people with criminal convictions for moon-shinning. These people possessed the best skill-set and aptitude for the jobs we had available. Also, whether a man was or was not a known whiskey maker had little or no bearing on the Ranger enlisting him as a fire warden. The main emphasis was utilizing his influence in that neck of the woods to help prevent man-caused wildfires on public land. The 2nd reason for not abandoning this route to complete the job was that the USFS had responsibility to manage the resources, and still does for that matter, and not to let one individual throw a roadblock into the process. The local folks knew that the USFS would not squeal on anyone operating a moonshine still - all other things considered.

A couple of weeks later I again drove up to the house, got out of the green truck, walked up on the porch, knocked, and the lady of the house again appeared at the door. I again asked permission which she granted. I opened, drove through and closed the gate and proceeded up past the chicken houses, across the pasture and in to the woods, but there was a great surprise waiting for me. The personnel of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agency had done their job. They had taken axes and laid waste to the vats and still, a drastic turn of events! The best approach for me was to proceed as if nothing had happened, so I parked the truck, got my paraphernalia and walked off into the woods for the day. On returning to the truck, I drove out, stopped at the house, went to the door, knocked, and thanked the lady on behalf of the USFS for their kindness and cooperation. For the life of me, I can't remember if I ever told Preach about this before I left the District.

First Texas Forest Supervisor Inducted into Forestry Hall of Fame

by Gay Ippolito



Loren Leroy Bishop, the first forest supervisor of the National Forests in Texas, was inducted posthumously into the Texas Forestry Hall of Fame last fall. In a ceremony at the Texas Forestry Museum in Lufkin, Texas, Bishop was honored for his forestry career that included overseeing the purchase of 600,000 acres of mostly cutover land in Texas that became the Angelina, Davy Crockett, Sabine and Sam Houston National Forests. Additionally, Bishop served as the first full-time, salaried executive secretary of the Texas Forestry Association (TFA) from 1949-1952 after retiring from federal service. TFA Executive Director Rob Hughes accepted the honor on behalf of Bishop and his family.

According to "*A Century of Forestry, 1914-2014 (Texas Forestry Association and Texas A&M Forest Service)*," after Bishop earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in forestry from the University of Nebraska in 1910, he worked with the U.S. Forest Service in California. He was next assigned to the Weeks Law Program in Washington, DC, a position that moved him throughout Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

Bishop served as forest supervisor in Texas from 1934 to 1938, before being promoted to assistant regional forester with authority over national forests in 10 southern states. During his career, he guided the purchase of two million acres of land into the national forest system in Pennsylvania and the South. During World War II, at age 60, Bishop worked as forest consultant for General Douglas MacArthur in Tokyo before beginning his work leading the Texas Forestry Association.

Bishop and his wife Hazel had three children. He died in 1965 at age 78.

Belinda Ross, Forest Service Retiree and Author

By Robin Palmer

Belinda Bluford Ross was born and raised in the small town of San Augustine, Texas; population less than 3,000. She graduated from Massey Business College and served a 35-year career with the USDA Forest Service in Lufkin, Texas, as a Human Resources Specialist until her retirement in 2013. She currently attends Angelina Junior College pursuing certification in Human Services. When Belinda is not writing and posting ***"Grown Up Words with Belinda"*** on Facebook, she serves as chauffeur and taxi driver for her beloved granddaughter, "Ree" and spends quality time with her daughter and husband of 35 years fishing, camping and socializing with friends and fellow retirees. She also volunteers as an instructor in the **Jobs for Life Program** at the Mosaic Center in Lufkin, Texas. **About the Book:** ***"Grown Up Words with Belinda"*** was birthed as a compilation of daily word postings to Facebook. Belinda exclaims, "My granddaughter and I talk daily about life. This book is a way to keep my voice alive in her life even after I'm gone." There is a lot of autobiographical information about how she was raised along with her advice and counsel about how one should live. ***"Grown Up Words with Belinda"*** gives you a definition of a word and its application to life. There are comical words in it such as **"butt-crack"** and **"toilet-tissue"** to serious and emotional words such as **"devastation"** and **"broken."** This book is about finding a way to move forward after all the events life throws at you; and it is a blessing if you need to know that someone else has been through it also. "You are not where you came from but who you decided to be just saying." For more information on her book, "Grown Up Words with Belinda," visit Amazon.com or you may visit her Facebook page.

PERPLEXITIES OF THE WORKPLACE

by Larry Trekell

Sometimes, one has to maintain a sense of humor, or face frustration. Such was the case in 1978, when the RO put out a lengthy memo on the National Fire Danger Rating System. Back in those days, acronyms were in vogue when naming programs, and Fire Management had come up with FIRDAT, and components of the fire data program called SEAPLT (Season Plot), SEATAB (Seasonal Tabulation), and SEAPST (Seasonal Persistence). I'll just mention a few of the "mindbenders" we were furnished with:

1) Persistence (SEAPST) - "This data is displayed in three ways:

a. Actual number of times a range of burning indexes (sic) that occur one day (today) will repeat, or has repeated itself (tomorrow) and the number of times that other ranges (preselected) followed.

b. The probability (percentage) that a range of burning indices will repeat itself or will be followed by another predetermined range of burning indices (same thing as the first display, only expressed as percentage).

c. Gives the percentage chance that a certain range of burning indexes (sic) will occur tomorrow if you don't know what today's BI is."

Among the listed benefits of these data displays was this one:
"FIREDAT can help you make the first cost at identifying the most promising periods in which to plan the use of prescribed fire - planned or unplanned."

The memo closed with: "This memo is not intended to cover all the ground, but to set your thinking in the right direction."

My reply: "You thought I didn't understand that you knew what I thought this thing says, but actually, I knew that you understood what I thought after reading it what it probably actually says!"

* * * * *

Then, there was the time in 1976 when a Staff Member in the NF's in TX staff meeting reported on the fact that, in the Conroe Unit Plan they had set the maximum noise levels at 86 decibels, while in the ORV Plan they had set it at 90 decibels. A staffer contacted EPA to see what their advice would be. He reported back that "They have a committee working on it, but expect it to be a few years before they have an answer.

RETIREMENT Q&A

Thanks to Joyce Keith

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime? Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep in his chair.
Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?
Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.
Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?
Answer: The term comes with a 10 percent discount.
Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire? Answer: Tied shoes.
Question: Why do retirees count pennies? Answers: They are the only ones who have the time.
Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?
Answer: NUTS!
Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?
Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.
Question: What do retirees call a long lunch? Answer: Normal.
Question: What is the best way to describe retirement? Answers: The Never-Ending Coffee Break.
Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?
Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

“Parable of the “One-Legged Ones”

Jerry Wayne Davis 1996
From Jim Wenner 10 19 2017

In 1767 a man named Juan Alonso Cabale died. He was the last Timucua Indian, a people so old that they were the "Old Ones" that had been on these lands for 12,000 years. The Timucuas ancestral Indian lands were what is now the Southeastern United States and they there when the ancestors of the Choctaws, Creeks, Chickasaws, Cherokees and Seminoles arrived. When Columbus arrived the Timucua Indians had 30 powerful Chiefdoms spread across an estimated 19,000 square miles of what is now Southern Georgia and Western Florida. They spoke a language so ancient it was unknown even to the other tribes. By 1767 all were dead due to the measles and the British, influenza and the French, syphilis and the Spanish, smallpox and from being locked up and made to work at things they did not believe the Creator would have them do. Although the Timucua Indians are gone their legend of creation still lives today and I am sharing a brief excerpt.

A Legend of the Timucua – The Ancient Ones*

The creator created the insects of many legs, the swimmers that swam on top and the creatures on the bottom of the water with their purpose to hold the land in place and although they were holding as tight as they could the land kept slipping away. It was then that the Creator plunged his fist into the very land itself and from it He made the “one-legged ones”.

"Where I place you, you are to grab the land and hold it still," He commanded them. "When the Wind wanders the land you must hold the land steady so that his breath does not blow the land into the waters, and when Water wanders the land, you must hold the land steady so that his rain does not push the land out into the Great Pond. All of you, from the mightiest oak to the smallest flower, to the single blade of grass, you are to hold tight to the land. You are to do this forever. This is why I have created you." And the Creator looked upon them and He loved them very much. "You are my silent ones," He said. "You have been given no voice with which to speak, and given only one leg, so that you can stand but you cannot move or defend yourselves. But you are to do wondrous things. You will be the protectors of the land. For doing this, you are given special gifts. You will find homes in the crevices of rocks, on the face of mountains, in burning sands, fertile land, arid land, and you will connect the land to the life giving sky and sun and you will hold it firm. You will amaze all others with your ability to live anywhere. Some of you will be given stinging needles to ensure your survival, and some will provide food for many of my other creatures. Some of you will provide lifesaving shade from a blistering sun, and others will open your arms to provide homes for my creatures. But your primary job is to hold the land steady." "Some of you will live but a single season but you will have many children, thus you will continue forever, and some of you will see more seasons than any other of my creatures. You will become the true "ancient ones" of this land. You will also be the beginning of the cycle and the continuation of the cycles." "When you fall to the ground that you have so faithfully held, you will return home again a part of the land from which you were made, and your children will take hold where you once stood, and they will draw strength from you, thus you will continue forever."

The Timucua knew the value of the one-legged ones and tried to tell their captors of what the “Old Ones” had told them about the beginning of time. The words of wisdom from the Timucua from 12,000 years ago is still ignored today and the land slips away by the blowing wind and water. Davis (“Tend My Garden” 1987) reminds us of our abuse and lack of stewardship that we have written on the land. It is there as a record and is easy to read by anyone with an understanding of the land and willing to take the time to look at what has happened to God's creation. Records of human struggle to exploit God's world, rather than reaching a lasting harmony with its limited resources, are there for anyone to see. The records of human failures are more numerous than the records of our success. (*continued on next page*)

(*continued from previous page*) The Bible is a book of inspiration and survival. It gives many accounts of the plight of people that failed to stay in balance with God's laws of creation. The great fertile plains of Mesopotamia and the valley of the Nile were used for agriculture 7,000 years ago. The great Babylonian empire, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and King Nebuchadnezzar's stables are now all in ruin. At least 11 great empires have risen and fallen on this tragic land. The great canal system of Mesopotamia once irrigated 13,000,000 acres and supported a population of 17-25 million people. But when the abused watersheds began to erode, all the people could not keep the silt from choking these life giving canals. Soil erosion is the insidious enemy of other civilizations as well. The Sinai, where the Israelites wandered with their herds for 40 years, is now an overgrazed eroded picture of desolation. The Jordan River was once a great river, but is now a muddy, disappointing stream. The Promised Land that Moses described as the "land flowing with milk and honey" has had its soils eroded and washed away to bedrock. The great cedars of Lebanon that were used by King Solomon to construct God's Temple once covered 1.2 million acres. Today the cedars of Lebanon are gone. This was not because of climate change. It is because the mature trees were cut and the rapacious goats grazed every living plant in sight including cedar reproduction. The Sahara was once a wet and fertile land that served as the grainery for the Roman Empire for 3,000 years. Today the Sahara is a desert wasteland. World desertification is spreading by 15 million acres per year. In just 70 years, we have depleted our soils and other natural resources to the level that it took the rest of the world 1,000 years to do. We are losing 9 tons of soil per acre per year. Our soil is being lost faster than it is being formed. We lose four tons of soil for every ton of grain we produce. In addition each year we cover 5 million acres of productive land with highways and parking lots, not counting the land covered by houses. In a mere decade this is 78,000 square miles of land that is completely taken out of production. And 25 million acres in the western United States is now becoming desert. This is due to overgrazing and over cultivation. Every great civilization that has ever fallen first depleted its natural resources and this nation will not be an exception. The Legend from the Ancient ones and the value of the one-legged ones shared by the Timucuas Indians has been with us for over 12,000 years. Yet, we have failed to grasp the value of the “one-legged ones” and treat them with respect.

*A Legend of the Timucua – The Ancient Ones should be read by all in its entirety. You will gain significant ecological insight and a learning experience from an ancient people long before those in the middle east and unequaled in most Legends.

The Making of the Y-LT Symbol

From Lafayette County Forestry Association Newsletter

In 1953, Dan Todd, a Forest Service photographer from Atlanta, visited the Turpin Farm in Lafayette County, Mississippi. Todd caught Walter with a planting bar on his shoulder and a bucket of pine seedlings to replant. His brother, Fred, was in the valley field, breaking ground for another crop of corn.

Several years later, a Forest Service committee was developing a Y-LT Symbol. Nothing seemed to work. One member pulled out an enlargement of an old man with a planting bar on his shoulder and a bucket of pine seedlings to replant. Suddenly, the entire committee agreed, this would be the Y-LT Symbol.

For years and years, this Y-LT Symbol has appeared nationwide in forestry magazines and newspapers. More recently, the Oxford Eagle’s front page on September 13, 1985, ran a 7 by 8 inch picture that Dan Todd took in 1953 and a print of the developed Y-LT Symbol. This issue also included the date that the USDA Forest Service closed their doors as their part of the Y-LT.

DEBATING ON COMING TO THE 2018 REUNION?

HERE IS WHY YOU SHOULD:

The Program – The Southern Forest Service Retirees Association have developed an exciting program that highlights the uniqueness of southern National Forests. The program features field trips to the Cradle of Forestry (first forestry school in America) and the Biltmore Estate where the art and science of modern day forestry was created and practiced by Gifford Pinchot. In addition you can roam through the spectacular Biltmore mansion (America's largest privately owned home). As always, our agenda includes ample free time and social arrangements to reconnect with our past coworkers and friends.

The Attractions - Asheville in September is glorious, with moderate temperatures, clear blue skies, and spectacular views of the mountains! The city has worked hard to create a destination that offers a diverse food scene complimented by a booming brewing industry. A day trip could include driving the Blue Ridge Parkway to visit the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Cherokee Indian Reservation. The Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests offer numerous natural attractions that highlight the varied environments of the southern Appalachians. Mount Mitchell (highest peak in mainland eastern North America), Grandfather Mountain, Sliding Rock, and Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, are just a few of the magnificent places you can visit from Asheville. Our advice is to come early and stay late to see all of the beauty and history that this area has to offer.

We hope you will join us in Asheville this September. Remember to register by March 31 to get the discounted rate of $200!