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NEWSLETTER

July 2009

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From The President

Hello Feliciana Forestry Association members. We entered 2009 with many doubts and concerns about the status of our current economy and timber markets. Despite these concerns, we do have the prospect of new and exciting markets that may be in the not so distant future.

Pine and grade hardwood sawtimber prices have remained low. According to Dr. Mike Dunn in an article in Louisiana Logger, pine sawtimber stumpage prices were 21% lower for 2008 while oak sawtimber prices were 2% lower. These lower price trends are carrying over into 2009. The miscellaneous log market which was a bright spot for the latter part of 2008 has experienced a dramatic price decrease also during 2009. According to LSU AgCenter figures pine sawtimber harvest decreased by 30% and hardwood sawtimber by 21% for 2008. We have seen these conditions continue thus far this year. If the market conditions remain poor, it is doubtful we can expect much improvement before the end of the year.

On the upside, pine and hardwood pulpwood markets for 2008 saw a 32% and 25% increase respectively. These higher prices resulted in an increase in harvest of 2% on pine pulpwood and 7.3% on hardwood pulpwood. Unfortunately, as a result of low demand for sawtimber, more production efforts have been focus on pulpwood. This has resulted in an oversupply of pulpwood in the market place which has driven the demand and price for pulpwood down. The forest community is experiencing quotas with mills only buying products on certain days of the week.

A couple of bright spots are on the horizon for the forestry community for the Felicianas and surrounding areas for 2010. First is the announcement of the purchase and re-opening of the old Tembec mill by PanAmerican Capital Group which is scheduled to open early next year. Second is the planned opening of the Point BioEnergy pellet mill in Baton Rouge within the next 16 months. The opening of these facilities will provide new market avenues and increased demand for hardwood and pine pulpwood in the area.

Although the statistics are rather staggering, I hope that in the near future they will improve with the increased markets available to our area. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the forest community in the Felicianas. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me or any other member of the Feliciana Forestry Association Board of Directors. This is your association here to serve you.

Best of luck to everyone - Brian Cutrer

Membership

We presently have 241 members, down from 258 in December. New members since the last newsletter include Deets Powers – Clinton, Kevin Allen – Wilson, Arnold Baham – Jackson, Page McClendon – Mandeville, Donny Davis – St Francisville, John Tieken – Houma, David Maltese – Norwood, and Terry Craighead – Ethel.

Annual Meeting

143 members and guests attended the meeting at the American Legion Hall in Clinton on January 22. They heard Dr Mike Dunn, LSU AgCenter Forest Economist, discuss the current status of the forest economy. Elections were held and the following people were elected to office: Mike Salmon – President-elect, Mack Herrod – Treasurer, Brian Chandler – Secretary, David Dart and Rob Ligon – directors for East Feliciana, and Herbert Erwin and Tim Pohlman – directors for West Feliciana. Thank you to our many sponsors for their donations.

Field Day

The annual EBR and Feliciana Forestry and Wildlife Field Day was held on Friday, April 24, at the Fazende/Rector property south of Clinton. Over 60 landowners participated in the field day. Hosts Brent Fazende and Mike Thomas discussed the management of the family property. Educational stops on the tour included pine plantation management with storm damage, hardwood salvage, pre-commercial thinning of pine, wildlife openings, and pond management. A brisket lunch was served by the Possum Corner Cooking Crew. The field day is funded by the Feliciana and Red Stick Forestry Associations.

This property was the site of one of the first area field days in 1993. The property had just been certified as a Stewardship Forest back then. 35 people attended that field day to learn more about the Forest Stewardship Program, managing for wildlife and aesthetics, and BMPs.

LFA Annual Meeting

The Louisiana Forestry Association's annual meeting will be August 25 – 27 at the Capital House Hilton in Baton Rouge. Featured presentations include A Perspective on Louisiana's Forest Inventory, The Logging Force after Recovery, New Products and Markets for the Future, Louisiana's Tree Farmer of the Year, and Louisiana's Outstanding Logger. For more information, contact LFA at 318-443-2558.

The Association, thanks to Melvin Harvey, will donate a print of the state champion baldcypress by Murrell Butler of St Francisville, to the LFA Tree Farm and Project Learning Tree Auction. Mr Butler donated the print to the Association.

Louisiana Forestry Teacher Tour

The Tour is an outdoor environmental education course designed to provide an unbiased look into the impact that forests have on our state's environment, economy and quality of life. Teachers spend five days in June touring and learning about the forests of Louisiana, examining forest practices and viewing forest industries. The Association donated \$250 to the Teacher Tour for a meal this year. We had hoped to sponsor a teacher from the Felicianas but none applied. If you know of a teacher who might be interested in this program, have them contact Brian Chandler at 683-3101.

Association Scholarship

The Association has a \$1000 one-year scholarship available to college students enrolled or planning to enroll in forestry. The applicant must be a permanent resident of East or West Feliciana Parish, or an owner of, or immediate family member (spouse, child or grandchild) of someone who owns, forest land within East or West Feliciana Parish. Applicants must also be enrolled in a School of Forestry, or equivalent, accredited by the Society of American Foresters (SAF); be a full time student (generally, must be enrolled for 12 semester hours credit, minimum) and maintain a minimum 2.75 grade-point-average (GPA). The GPA does not apply to entering freshmen.

For more information and application, contact Brian Chandler at 225-683-3101 or bchandler@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Feral Hog Seminar

Feral hog populations are growing and expanding in the Felicianas, the state and throughout the southeastern states. Hogs are becoming one of the most serious concerns for wildlife managers. They root up food plots, eat the corn at feeders, tear up hardwood stands looking for acorns, and scare other wildlife away. Hogs also prey on young game animals, compete with native wildlife, carry diseases and pollute streams.

The LSU AgCenter is conducting a hog seminar on Thursday, August 20, at the Jackson Civic Center. This seminar will provide you with information on the biology of hogs, diseases they carry, state regulations for hunting, and various trap designs.

Registration starts at 6 pm and the program at 6:30 pm. Topics and speakers include Biology of Feral Hogs – Dr Don Reed, Feral Hog Diseases – Dr Jim LaCour, and Regulations and Trapping – Mike Perot and Paul Davidson. Hog traps will be exhibited by LDWF and Jason Harris. Registration is \$10. Contact Brian Chandler at 225-683-3101 or bchandler@agcenter.lsu.edu.