

ACCREDITED
LAND
CONSULTANTS

MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER
REALTORS® LAND INSTITUTE

Mississippi RLI
NEWS

April /13/ 2015



**News from
2015 MS RLI President, Brent McMillan, A.L.C.**

Hello Everyone!

I want to thank you all for electing me as your 2015 MS Chapter of RLI President. I am humbled and honored to serve you this year. I know this will be another great year for RLI. We are working to continue to provide you with all the opportunities and information needed to help you be successful in the land business. We are currently in talks with several excellent speakers that will provide us with CE and more importantly, vast knowledge related to land and real estate. We are also in talks with the Alabama Chapter trying to organize a joint

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Upcoming Events

Recap of Feb. 10, 2015 RLI Meeting

meeting with them, just to name a few. So please come join us at our next meeting and bring a friend. I look forward to seeing you all!

Respectfully,

Brent McMillan, A.L.C.
2015 MS RLI President

upcoming events

RLI Chapter Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2015
10 a.m to 12: p.m including lunch
MAR Building
4274 Lakeland Drive
Flowood, MS 39232

\$20 fee

RSVP to Glenda Gilmer
Phone: 601-932-5241 x11



Notes from Feb. 10, 2015 MS RLI Meeting

The speaker for the Mississippi Realtors Land Institute meeting held in Jackson on February 10, 2015 was Tedrick Ratcliff, Jr. the Executive Vice President of the Mississippi Forestry Association.

According to their website "MFA's Vision is to serve as the "Voice of Forestry" in Mississippi. Our Mission is leading diverse groups to

promote landowner rights, environmental stewardship, member prosperity, and community understanding. MFA members and staff work to accomplish our Mission by conducting public affairs, communication, and education programs that will foster better understanding and appreciation of conservation, development, and use of forestland and resources.

Mississippi Forestry Association, organized in 1938, is a not-for-profit organization representing a broad range of members in Mississippi's forestry community such as timberland owners, professional foresters, logging contractors, forest products manufacturers, wood fiber suppliers, state and federal agencies, and suppliers of products and services."

The MFA has over 3000 members representing the entire supply chain from landowners to mills and every service provider in between. Advocacy, education and outreach are their three main goals. In regards to legislation, they have been involved on the Federal, State and Local levels. On the Federal level, the MFA is currently concerned regarding the potential listing of the northern long eared bat and the black pine snake as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and its impact on forest landowners.

On the State level, the MFA concentrates on any pending legislation regarding landowner rights, transportation and taxation. Of particular concern to this group might be SB2589 which concerns the sale of property by nonresidents and will require the closing agent or seller to withhold for income taxes rather than the buyer.

Locally, MFA is always concerned about the condition of our rural transportation infrastructure including roads and bridges and the impact they have on the forest industry.

Tedrick went over a few facts about forestry and landowners in Mississippi:

The average size landholding is 40-50 acres.

- There are 19.80 million acres of timberland in the state, which is equal to 64% of the state's land base.**
- Of this, 45% is pine, 40% is hardwood and 15% is mixed stands.**
- The economic impact to the state is \$12,000,000,000 per year.**
- 51% of the landowners are over age 65, 40% are between ages 45-64.**
- According to the National Woodland Survey the top seven**

reasons for owning family forests are ranked as follows:

1. Beauty and Scenery
2. Family Heritage
3. Privacy
4. Nature Protection
5. Connected to home or cabin
6. Investment
7. Hunting or fishing

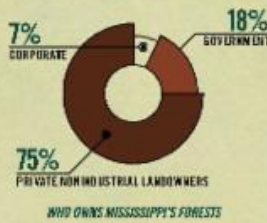
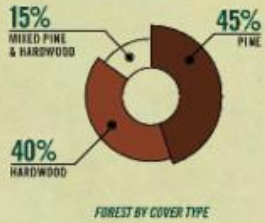
Tedrick gave a very good presentation and answered quite a few questions from the membership. At the end of his presentation, he went over the benefits of membership in the MFA. Besides a quarterly magazine (with ample advertising opportunities) members receive two electronic updates per month for field days, workshops and forestry issues. During the legislative session, a weekly email is sent to the members.

There are many affordable membership categories available, either as an individual or a business. To discuss membership, please call Tedrick at 601-354-4936. His email address is tratcliff@msforestry.net. Additional information is available on the MFA website at www.msforestry.net

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

MISSISSIPPI FOREST FACTS
MS FORESTRY NET

Acreage and Ownership



Forestry and the Economy

Timber is a very important part of Mississippi's economy.

- ▶ The value of timber harvesting in Mississippi has averaged in excess of \$1 billion per year over the past 20 years.
- ▶ Mississippi forests provide recreational opportunities, encourage tourism, and create environmental benefits such as excellent water quality, cleaner air, improved wildlife habitat, and the storage of atmospheric carbon.
- ▶ Promoting sustainable forest management, reforestation after harvest, and keeping forests productive have strategic long-term benefits for Mississippi.

Mississippi is "First in Forestry"

Thanks to MFA...

- ▶ State funded green buildings must equally recognize all forest certification programs.
- ▶ Mississippi was the first state in the nation to establish a reforestation tax credit, helping landowners with expenses associated with the stewardship of forest land and encouraging them to replant after harvest. Mississippi Forestry Association and its partners worked with the state legislature to increase the tax credit's lifetime limit from \$10,000 to \$75,000.
- ▶ Mississippi ranks number one in the nation in the number of Certified Tree Farms under the American Tree Farm System.

Employment and Wage Summary

FORESTRY AND FORESTRY-RELATED EMPLOYMENT:

5%
ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY
OF ALL JOBS
IN MISSISSIPPI

\$12.3 BILLION
FORESTRY AND
FOREST PRODUCT INDUSTRY

ALMOST
70,000
TOTAL JOBS
IN MISSISSIPPI

\$3.4 BILLION
WAGES PAID OUT

Mississippi Forest Facts is published by Mississippi Forestry Association, Inc. Statistics were compiled by the Mississippi Forestry Commission and Mississippi State University.

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

The Mississippi Forestry Association is the only statewide non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining Mississippi's forests. Founded in 1938, MFA seeks to unify members of the forestry community. Members and staff work to accomplish the MFA mission through public affairs, communications, and education programs that promote conservation, development, and wise use of forestland and resources.

MFA educates the public on the social, ecological, and economic values of forestry and natural resources. The association also supports landowners by working closely with its extensive statewide network of County Forestry Associations. Through education and outreach tools, MFA ensures that future generations will have clean water, clean air, outdoor recreation, wildlife habitats, and a renewable wood supply for paper and wood products.

ADVOCACY

OUTREACH

EDUCATION

Sustainable Forestry Initiative®

Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Inc. is one of the largest sustainable forestry certification programs in the world and is devoted to responsible forest management. The certification standard is based on principles that promote sustainable forest management, including measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, and Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.

MS SFI Implementation Committee members practice sustainable forestry in Mississippi by growing and nurturing forests for:

- ▶ Clean air and water
- ▶ Soil conservation
- ▶ Healthy and abundant wildlife and fish habitats
- ▶ Outdoor recreation

www.sfiiprogram.org

SFI Activities in Mississippi

Inconsistent Practices – Inconsistent practices are any activities conducted by SFI participants that are not consistent with SFI Standards. In Mississippi, an SFI Implementation Committee (SIC) has developed a confidential process to receive, respond to, and follow up on any complaints. To report an inconsistent practice, contact the MS-SIC at **662.325.1785**.

Landowner Education – Seventy-five percent of the forest land in Mississippi is owned by private individuals and families. During and after the timber sales process, SFI program participants encourage private non-industrial landowners who sell timber to follow voluntary BMPs for the protection of water and site quality and replant their timberland. The MS-SIC also sponsors landowner education programs that are conducted by the Extension Forestry Program of Mississippi State University.

Logger Education – Mississippi's Continuing Education for Professional Loggers program presents workshops in Best Management Practices (BMPs) and harvest planning, communicating and working with the public, business management, and safety. Since the program began in 1996, more than 840 workshops have been held for more than 31,000 participants.

Public Outreach – There are several initiatives in place to increase public awareness of sustainable forestry. The MS-SIC supports projects that aim to educate the public and youth about the importance of forest industry in Mississippi and the benefits of sustainable forestry. A few of these projects include a Student Architecture Tour, Boy Scouts Forestry Merit Badge training, Teachers Conservation Workshops, Project Learning Tree, and support of 4-H and FFA forestry judging competitions.

Mississippi Forestry Foundation

The Mississippi Forestry Foundation serves as the charitable arm of MFA by supporting educational, literary, scientific, and charitable goals that benefit Mississippians.

- ▶ Teachers Conservation Workshops
- ▶ MSU Forest Resources Student Scholarships
- ▶ Project Learning Tree
- ▶ Mississippi Children's Museum
- ▶ Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
- ▶ Forest Arson Reward

The total value of Mississippi's timber harvest per year is over \$1 billion. Forestry accounts for 8.5% of all jobs in Mississippi. Teaching our youth about the forestry industry is essential to our state's future.



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MFORESTRY.NET



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