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May 2011

Inside this issue:

Thank you 2
MSU natural Resources Summer Camp 2
Forestry Facts..... 2
Forest harvest value rebounds from 2009 ... 3
MPE Credit Union..... 3
May's Birthdays..... 3
Who Am I? 4
Tree Farm Awards 2011 5
New biomass Energey Plant to open 5
Sanakes Alive!..... 6

Mississippi's Threats

Preventing or reducing undesirable impacts of non-native invasive plants is a difficult challenge facing all land managers. Non-native invasive plants impact landscapes across the U.S. through changes in the structure, composition and successional pathways of native plant communities. They are estimated to be spreading at the rate of about 1.7 million acres per year. The impact to the U.S. economy is believed to exceed $30 billion dollars annually.

According to the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center, Mississippi has 131 threats in the following categories:

- Invasive Plants - 90 threats,
- Insects - 14 threats
- Diseases - 13 threats
- Climate - 5 threats
- Loss of Open Space - 3 threats
- Pollution - 3 threats
- Wildland Fires - 2 threats
- Unmanaged Recreation - 1 threat

The top ten abundant invasive plants in Mississippi according to Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) by number of reports are:

1st - Kudzu
2nd - Cogongrass
3rd - Mimosa
4th - Callery Pear
5th - Brazil Vervain
6th - Chinese privet
7th - Chinese tallowtree
8th - Johnsongrass
9th - Curly dock
10th - Japanese honeysuckle

According to the Mississippi Exotic Pest Plant Council, the Noteworthy Exotic Plant Species for Mississippi, that have been categorized as a number 1 risk are listed below by common name:

- Tree of Heaven
- Alligatorweed
- Cheatgrass
- Benghal Dayflower
- Waterhyacinth
- Hydrilla
- Cogongrass
- Chinese privet
- Japanese honeysuckle
- Amur Honeysuckle
- Nepalese browntop
- Torpedograss
- Kudzu
- Callery pear
- Water spangles
- Giant salvinia
- Tall fescue
- Johnsongrass
- Chinese tallowtree
- Chinese wisteria

A full listing of the Noteworthy Exotic Plant Species for Mississippi can be found at www.se-eppc.org/mississippi/. Look under General Information for DRAFT Plant List.

What can you do in the fight against invasive species?

- Don't plant, transmit, spread or release an invasive species
- Educate your self and keep up to date on invasive species
- Check to see if a plant is invasive before planting it
- Do not empty aquariums or dump houseplants into the wild
- Be sure to clean your shoes and brush off your clothes after be-

(Continued on page 4)

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Forestry Facts

- About 30% of the global total land is covered by forests, this amounts to just under 40 million km^2. This corresponds to an area roughly the size of a football field for every person on the planet.
- Forest area decreased worldwide by 0.22% per year in the period 1990-2000 and 0.18% per year between 2000-2005. The net loss of forest is slowing down as a result of planting new forests and natural expansion of forests.
- Forest plantations are increasing but make up less than 5% of overall forest area.

Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged (although space limitations may curtail inclusion). Items must be received by the ***10th of the month*** to be included in the next month's issue. E-mail submissions *(in Microsoft Word)* and photos to ***lharris@mfc.state.ms.us*** or mail to:

Lisa A. Harris
Mississippi Forestry Commission
822 SCR 115 South
Raleigh, MS 39153

Hello Charlie:

THANK YOU

Last weekend there were two large fires on Texas properties managed by Campbell. One fire was estimated at 1,300 acres and the second fire estimated at 7,000 acres. Acreage burned on Campbell was approximately 2,200.

When I arrived on each fire I was pleasantly surprised to see fire units from the Mississippi Forestry Commission engaged in fire suppression. I wanted to shake the hands of your employees and express my thanks and gratitude, but both crews were very busy and I did not want to stop their plowing.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to you, your employees, the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the great state of Mississippi. This is shaping up to be the worst fire season on record for Texas.

Lee Carroll
Southwest Regional Manager
Campbell Timberland Management
702 North Temple Drive
Diboll, Texas 75941

MSU Natural Resources Summer Camp

The 2011 Natural Resources Summer Camp at MSU is scheduled for June 5 – 9, 2011. Any high school student entering the ninth grade in 2011 or older may attend. Recently graduated high school students who are interested in natural resources career may also attend.

This is an overnight adventure in which young adults learn about our natural resources. Campers will spend time on campus, at Dorman and Choctaw lakes and the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge.

Among the activities and topics included are amphibians, reptiles and birds; canoeing; career options; conservation management and law enforcement; deer dissection; ducks and retrievers; paper and plywood manufacturing; soil erosion simulation; water quality testing; and wetland, forest and wildlife habitat management. This camp is offered by MSU's College of Forest Resources and the MSU Extension Service.

The cost of this camp is $190.00 which includes all cost except for spending money.

This event is sponsored by the MSU College of Forest Resources, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and Mississippi Forestry Commission.

To register, visit www.cfr.msstate.edu/summer_camp. Contact Leslie Burger at (662) 325-6686 or lburger@cfr.msstate.edu for more information

Forest Harvest Value Rebounds From 2009

From College of Forestry Resources at Mississippi State University.

The estimate for this year's forestry year-end harvest value is better than last year's dismal showing, and if the forecasted improvement in the overall economy is accurate, this trend could continue for the next few years.

The preliminary estimate for forestry's overall harvest value is $1.078 billion, which is comparable to 2008's value of $1.079 billion. The harvest value for 2009 was $864 million, the first time in 16 years the value dipped below the billion-dollar mark.

The harvest value estimate is based on the prices mills pay for harvested timber. The estimate for 2010 is 25 percent higher than the 2009 value. An unusually wet fall of 2009 significantly impacted timber harvest and sales.

"The unusual supply disruption resulted in uncommonly high pulpwood prices and modest increases in sawtimber prices during the first half of 2010," said James Henderson, assistant Extension professor of forestry at Mississippi State University.

Heavy logging equipment cannot be operated in the woods when the ground is soggy, and most harvest operations ceased from the fall of 2009 into the first quarter of 2010. Sawmills depleted much of their inventories, and competition for available wood caused prices to rise.

Harvest volumes rose sharply during the second quarter of 2010 as forests dried out and loggers could get back into the woods, Henderson said. The spike in prices moved sellers to take advantage of the situation.

"When the woods dried out, activity stayed fairly level for the rest of the year," said David Jones, MSU assistant Extension professor of forest products.

Timber severance tax collections during the first quarter of 2010 were 2 percent below those of the previous year. During the second quarter, harvest resumed and collections were 33 percent higher than they had been during the same period of 2009.

Harvest tapered off later in the year as mills built up their log inventories and timber prices began to fall. By the end of 2010, demand for timber products remained weak because of the lingering effects of the recession and high log inventories, Jones said.

While several mills went out of business in 2009, those that remained were able to keep operating for much of 2010. But many mills struggled to stay ahead and are still in a survival mode.

"The collapse of the housing market has caused some mills to reduce the number of shifts and put loggers on a quota, which limits the amount of wood coming in," said Extension forestry professor Glenn Hughes of MSU's Coastal Research and Extension Center. "The collapse will end one day, and the mills want to survive until the market starts back up."

Mississippi Public Employees Credit Union

Members of the Mississippi Public Employees Credit Union can now get information about the credit union by visiting the website at www.mspecu.org.

The following services are available:

1). Internet Banking & Bill Payment
2). Promotions & Specials – On the spot financing at several dealerships. Check the website for information about dates and dealership locations
3). E-statements
4). On-line applications (Loan, Visa, Secured Visa)
5). Newsletters

May's Birthdays

Stanley Burks -1
John Morelan -1
Clayton Thames -1
Melody Amis -2
Clifton Godbold -2
Larry Stephens -2
Jonathan McKeown -4
Tom Robertson -6
John Ware -7
Edward Williams -7
John Giachelli -8
Jerry Snellings -8
Keith Wooten -10
Charles Bell -13
Charlie Morgan -14
Michael Burks -15
Kristopher King -16
Brent Ladner -17
Brett Fussell -18
Ellis Warren -19
Anthony Williamson -21
Berry Thomas -22
Benecia Barkley-Spelli -23
Gabriel Baker -24
Lyndol Giles -25
Charlie Howell -25
James Phillips -25
David Magee -26
James Mccoy -26
Coburn Yelverton -26
Patrick Dickerson -27
Gregory Dixon -28
Shaun Rogers -30
Clifton Sewell -30

- ☺ James A. Johnson, Forest Ranger, SED, Pearl River County
- ☺ Joshua Myers, Forest Ranger, SED, Stone County

Mississippi's Threats

ing in an area with invasive species

- Report any occurrence of invasive species to your local county extension agent, State Forestry Commission or to other federal or state natural resources agencies
- Eradicate or control population on invasive species on your own land
- Spread the word on the danger of invasive species
- Be a responsible pet owner. If you can not longer keep your exotic pet, find another owner for the pet
- Don't move firewood cuttings or live plants because they can harbor pests

Help keep the invasive species from taking over our world. Be responsible.

Tree Knowledge - Who Am I?

My leaves are simple, alternate, deciduous with an aromatic smell reminiscent of bell pepper. My leaves are 10.0" to 12.0" long and 4.0" to 6.0" wide. Their margin is entire with an acute apex and wedge-shaped base. My leaves are light green above and a paler green below. Their surface is sparsely pubescent above and glabrous below with age.

My twigs are slender, light brown in color and their surface is pubescent.

My buds are naked, 0.5" long with my laterals buds being 0.13" long. They are rusty in color with a pubescent surface.

My fruit is a round or pointed at the extremities berry with thin skin. My fruit has a yellow custard-like pulp said to taste like the papaya. It ranges in size from 3.0" to 5.0: long, has an oblong to cylindrical shape. The berry is green with dark gray spots in the summer and dark brown to black with mature.

My flower is monoecious; perfect, solitary and purple in color. It has a 2.0 diameter with 6 petals.

My bark is dark brown with gray blotches, smooth with raised warty areas with vertical gray superficial fissures.

I form a single or multiple stem and reach 35 feet when mature. I have a slow growth rate and reach my maximum height around 20 years of age. My live span is less than 50 years.

I am tolerance to shade, have a low tolerance to drought and a median tolerance to fire.

I prefer deep, rich moist soils along streams and bottom lands. I am usually found in understory and form dense thickets in some localities, particularly in the lower Mississippi River Valley.

I like a medium to coarse soil texture with a pH of 5.2 to 7.2.

I can be found in New Jersey, south to northern Florida, west to eastern Texas, north to southern Michigan. I am scattered throughout Mississippi.

My fruit is eaten by opossum, raccoon, fox and squirrel. The larvae of the zebra swallowtail butterfly feed exclusively on my leaves.

I have not timber value.

I give a topical flavor to temperate gardens and provide edible landscaping. I can be serve as a screen or can be grown in a container as a specimen tree. I have a conical pyramid-like shape when grown in sun and a more open structure if grown in the shade. I produce more fruit when grown in the sun but I need a shading structure to allow filtered sun for the first few years.

I was cultivated by some Native American tribes for my fruit. This cultivation account for my widespread range. The Iroquois mashed my fruit to make small cakes that were dried and stored, then later soaked in water and cooked to make a sauce or relish that was served with corn bread. My dried fruit was also taken on hunts. My inner bark is used to make cordage (string and strong ropes) by the Cherokee.

I am the largest edible fruit native to America. I am high in amino acids and some varieties contain a whitish green pulp that is less flavorful than those with yellow pulp.

My twigs and leaves contain extracts that have insecticidal properties. My leave contain anti-carcinogens.

Who Am I?

Tree Knowledge - Who Am I? for April 2011 was the Umbrella Magnolia (Magnolia tripetala L.) Check out page 213 in the Mississippi Trees book.

Magnolia tripetala, Photo by Steven J. Baskauf, 2002.

Tree Farm Project Awards 2011

The MS Tree Farm Committee and the MS Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee (SFISIC) are cooperating to offer MS CFAs the opportunity to participate in Tree Farm Project Awards in 2011.

There are three award categories:

- Highest number of new Tree Farms inspected and certified per a single county;
- Highest percentage increase in new Tree Farms inspected and certified per a single county;
- Highest number of Tree Farm signs (or Family Forest signs) installed on certified Tree Farms per a single county.

The projects must be completed before October 1, 2011. CFAs will be credited with any accomplishments since January 1, 2011. The reason for the early October deadline is to be able to announce winners and present awards at the MFA Annual Meeting.

Tree Farms must be inspected by a trained, qualified Tree Farm inspector. CFAs are encouraged to involve all local Tree Farm inspectors in this project. Lists of inspectors are available by email from Tom Monaghan at tomm@msforestry.net.

A CFA can compete in all three award categories, but a county can win in only one category per year.

Details of the award categories and contact information are included in the document below:
2011 CFA Tree Farm Project Awards .

New Biomass Energy To Open Quitman Plant

New Biomass Energy, through its subsidiary BTH Quitman Hickory LLC, is developing its first torrefaction plant in Quitman, Mississippi. The BTH Quitman Hickory Plant is located in the middle of a large wood basket providing a generous source of raw wood for torrefaction, a roasting process for wood chips.

Thinnings from the surrounding Southern Pines plantations will be chipped in the field and delivered to the plant. The raw material will be dried, roasted in reactor units, cooled, ground and pelletized.

The BTH Quitman Hickory Plant is being developed in phases with the first phase encompassing three production lines. The first line is scheduled to be operational at the end of May 2011 with two additional lines installed and operational in the beginning of the 4th quarter of 2011.

"I'm thrilled that the company chose our city," said Eddie Fulton, mayor of Quitman. "The chip supply is abundant in our area and we are in a good location to truck the finished pellets to the Port of Mobile."

This initial phase of the development of the BTH Quitman Hickory Plant will produce in excess of 65,000 tons of torrefied wood pellets per year while utilizing approximately 200,000 tons of wood chips. Two additional phases are planned. Upon completion of all phases, the plant will produce in excess of 250,000 tons of torrefied wood per year utilizing over 600,000 tons of raw wood chips.

The plant will employ between 25 and 30 people when the initial phase is complete. In addition, a substantial number of jobs will be created for loggers and truckers whose services are necessary in supplying the raw materials and shipping the finished product. "425 people came to the plant's job fair," Fulton said.

"The pellets will be shipped by boat from Mobile to Europe, primarily Germany," Fulton said.

For details, visit http://newbiomass.com/

State Holiday
Memorial Day

Monday,
May 30, 2011

Forestry Facts

- The five countries with the largest forest areas are the Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada, the United States and China. Jointly they account for more than half of the worlds forest area and the Russian Federation alone accounts for 20% of the world total.
- The total value of harvested timber and fuelwood was about US$64 billion in 2005.
- The total global reported value of non-wood forest products was US$4.7 billion in 2005.
- Some 10 million people are employed in forestry or in forest conservation and management activities, mainly in India and China.
- Most of the world forest are publicly owned (84%), but private ownership is increasing.

From the Food & Agriculture Organization of the UN. 2006

Safety First . . .

Snakes Alive!

Snakes are important members of the natural world and make a significant contribution to the control of pests such as rats, insects, and other snakes. Poisonous snakes, however, are not desirable members of the human habitat. Four native genera of venomous snakes can be found in the United States, Coral Snakes, Copperheads, Cottonmouths and Rattlesnakes. Of the 2,900 species found worldwide, 140 species live in the United States. Mississippi is home to 40 species of snakes, six of which are venomous.

The risk of a poisonous snakebite is lower than that of being struck by lightning and can be reduced further by:

- Cleaning up refuse and other hiding spots around buildings and yards;
- Wearing heavy shoes and pants in wooded areas; and
- Looking first before stepping or touching hidden areas where snakes are likely to be resting or hiding.

Most poisonous snakes in the United States belong to the pit viper group. The pit viper has pits on its head, vertical pupils, a triangular head, slim neck, and a heavy body with a single row of scales on the underside of the tail. The pit viper group includes the major categories of copperhead and cottonmouth and two major categories of rattlesnake. All pit vipers may vibrate their tail sections rapidly to make noise when threatened.

The cottonmouth and copperhead categories are often referred to as moccasins, but they are two distinct categories within the pit viper group.

Rattlesnake

There are many varieties of rattlesnakes that have pit viper characteristics and a button on the tail (youngest snakes), plus two to four segments of rattles for each year of age. The size range of rattlesnakes is 15 to 72 inches, with the record size held by a 96-inch Eastern Diamondback. Mississippi is home to the Canebrake Rattle, Caroline Pygmy, Dusky Pygmy, Eastern Diamondback and Western Pygmy Rattlesnake.

Copperhead

The five varieties of copperhead snakes have pit viper characteristics and bands or hourglass markings of brown, copper, or red on a tan body. The 20- to 36-inch snakes have regional differences in color and size; the young have a bright-yellow tail tip. An unusually large copperhead was recorded at 56 inches in length.

Cottonmouth

The semiaquatic cottonmouth also has pit viper characteristics, but the adult has a solid-colored upper body that is olive brown or black, and a lighter underside. Although often difficult to distinguish from the nonpoisonous water snake, a cottonmouth is usually more aggressive. While a water snake will leave rapidly when threatened, the pit viper often raises its head and confronts an enemy with a show of fangs inside a cotton-white mouth. The size of the cottonmouth ranges from 30 to 48 inches, with a record length of 74 inches. Mississippi is the home of the Eastern and Western Cottonmouth snake.

Coral Snake

The coral snake is an exception to the other snakes of the United States, because it has round pupils and an elliptical head, but it is quite poisonous. While the pit viper venom reduces the amount of oxygen carried by a victim's red blood cells, a coral snake has venom that rapidly affects the nervous system. The small mouth of the coral snake has trouble grasping and biting the larger human; however, the effect is more deadly than the pit viper once a bite is accomplished!

If you are bitten by a snake...

1. If the snake is still in the area, do not attempt to kill or catch it, unless it poses a danger to you or the victim. Try to remember what it looks like so you can identify the type of snake from pictures in the emergency room.
2. Remove all items that may restrict circulation in the affected extremity. Watches, bracelets, rings, gloves, or shoes may pose a problem as the bite area swells.
3. Immobilize the affected area as much as possible. Attempt to keep the bite at or slightly below the level of the head.
4. If swelling occurs **rapidly**, place a 1-inch-wide constricting band about 2 inches above the bite. This **is not** a tourniquet and should not fit so tightly you cannot easily slip a finger under it. **Do not** place a constricting band on a joint.
5. Attempt to keep the victim from moving rapidly about while transporting him/her to the nearest emergency medical facility as quickly as possible.
6. **Do not:**
   a. Give the victim anything to eat or drink, particularly alcohol;
   b. Place the affected area in ice;
   c. Make any cuts or apply suction to the area;
   d. Attempt to give antivenom; or
   e. Administer pain or anti-anxiety medications