

## **8:15 a.m. Market Trends: Current Conditions, Future Markets**

### **Dennis Hazel**

Dennis Hazel is an Extension Specialist and Associate Professor in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at North Carolina State University. His current areas of responsibility include technology and policy development for woody-biomass based renewable energy, environmental sustainability of harvesting biomass energy feedstocks, and conducting supply studies for bioenergy projects and the forest industry. His degrees are in wildlife biology and forestry. Much of his current work is focused on the potential of fast-grown tree species for site remediation and production of energy feedstocks.

## **9:15 a.m. The Taxing Business of Forestry: Estate Planning, Present Use Value Taxation, and Conservation Planning Tools**

### **Mark Megalos**

Mark Megalos serves as Extension Forestry Specialist and Extension Associate Professor in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at NC State University. Mark earned his undergraduate degree from Rutgers University and his Masters and Doctorate degrees from NC State University. Mark's responsibilities cover forest management, reforestation, carbon offsets, taxation, conservation opportunities and climate adaptation strategies on forested lands.

## **10:45 a.m. Growing for Value and Selling for Profit: Species, Grades and Quality Considerations to Meet Market Needs**

### **Rick Hamilton**

Rick's career began in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1974, where he served as District Forester and District Extension Forester in the Southeast 26 counties. In 1977, his tree died and he returned to NC State University as Forestry Extension Specialist and retired as Department Extension Leader in 2007.

Rick's entire career and part of his retirement is devoted to educating and assisting private forest landowners. Over the years, he covered many forestry topics, including timber taxes, forest herbicides, general forest management, water quality and timber marketing.

**11:45 a.m. Lunch (provided)**

**The Economic, Environmental, and Ecosystem Impacts of Longleaf Restoration**

**Robert Abernethy**

Robert was selected as President of The Longleaf Alliance in September 2012 and oversees all Alliance activities in the 9-state range of the Longleaf Pine. The Alliance has 16 staff members located in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Robert grew up in Charlotte and received a BS from NC State in Wildlife Biology and a MS from LSU in Marine Science. Before heading to LSU, Robert worked with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission in Marion and Edenton and the NC State Parks at Stone Mountain. He has since worked all over the US and Canada on projects as varied as waterfowl and wetlands research, wild turkey restoration and habitat restoration of Louisiana marshes, bottomland hardwood forests, Carolina bays, oak savannahs and longleaf pine forests. Robert comes to the Alliance after 17 years as Assistant Vice President for Agency Programs with the National Wild Turkey Federation where he oversaw the restoration of the wild turkey as well as habitat management projects with state and Federal partners across the nation. His passions are his family, turkey hunting and habitat restoration (especially longleaf) on the family farm in Duplin County, North Carolina.

**1:00 p.m. Longleaf Pine Management for Profit**

**Bill Pickens**

Bill is the Forest Management Staff Forester for Conifer Silviculture with the NC Forest Service. He has worked for 27 years with the NC Forest Service as a Field Forester, District Forester, and Nursery/Tree Improvement Forester. His current duties include conducting applied research, and providing technical assistance and technical transfer statewide for conifer forest management and forest herbicide application. The use of prescribed fire and forest management to restore shortleaf and longleaf ecosystems has been a focus of his job for the last 20 years. Bill graduated from Penn State University in 1977 with a BS in Forest Science.

## **1:45 p.m. Using Fire to Promote Biodiversity, Habitat and Stand Health**

### **Terry Sharpe**

Terry Sharpe retired from the Wildlife Commission after working for thirty years as a biologist specializing in small game and land management. He now helps landowners with wildlife and forest management and grows native grass and wildflowers for seed production. He owns and manages several properties in Richmond and Moore Counties for timber and wildlife and has a conservation easement on one property.

He became interested in prescribed fire through his interest in bobwhite quail and the grasslands that form the understory in southeastern pine forests. He is an advocate for prescribed burning and regularly burns several of the properties he owns. He enjoys hunting, fishing, gardening, foraging for wild foods, bird watching, traveling to wild places, and canoeing southeastern rivers.

## **2:30 p.m. How To Produce Pine Straw for Profit on Your Land**

### **Jerry Holder**

Jerry Holder was raised on a family farm in Moore County and has been a lifelong resident of Moore County.

Jerry graduated from Sandhills Community College in 1974 with an Associate Degree in Civil Engineering. He worked in the field of Civil Engineering until 1983, when he began his career as a farmer producing North Carolina Longleaf Pine Needles, serving customers from South Carolina to Massachusetts and West as far Minnesota and Iowa. He was one of the founding Members of the North Carolina Pine Needle Producers Association in 1988. Has held many positions in that organization since 1988 and is the current President.

Recipient of the 1996 Governor's Award for Forest Conservationist of the Year presented by the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, for his efforts in establishing the First Safe Harbor in the nation, which was for the Red Cockaded Woodpecker. Finally in 2012, recipient of The Order of the Longleaf Pine for over thirty-five years of service to the North Carolina National Guard.

## **Is A Conservation Easement Right For You?**

### **Jesse Wimberley**

Jesse Wimberley has been associated with Sandhills Area Land Trust (SALT) for over ten years, and most recently has served as SALT's Outreach Coordinator. In this capacity, Jesse develops outreach programs that help landowners achieve their management goals, and, at the community level, enables local and regional agencies to understand the value of the natural resources and the role they play in supporting local economies and sense of place. One example is the Sandhills Heritage Gateway (SHG) project, which focuses on the designated Scenic By-Ways in Richmond and Moore Counties. The SHG project describes how human and ecological forces combine to create a culture unique to the Sandhills, one worth celebrating and preserving.

As a fourth generation landowner and farmer, Jesse brings his personal experience and perspective to create programs that resonate with the real needs of landowners. He is able to promote programs that serve landowners because he has used them himself. It is this hands-on approach that makes Jesse particularly effective in his work with landowners.

## **Using Resources to Improve Forest Health and Wealth**

### **Boon Chesson**

Boon Chesson has over 40 years of experience as a landowner in Montgomery County. Because of the occurrence of remnant trees, his focus has been on longleaf pine management. His land management skills are a result of this personal association with his forestland—and a lot of hard work.