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Newsletter

December 2010

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President's Address

From a forestry standpoint as we close out this year and bring in the new one, we can be thankful that the pulpwood market has held pretty steady, that the timber market although suffering didn't come to a complete halt and that we have the prospect of a new wood pellets plant starting up next year.

With all the uncertainty in the economy it is impossible to know when we will see a turnaround, but eventually it will come as it has after all of the past recessions. As forest landowners we know the importance of long term planning and how important it is to take a long term view of things. Now is the time to be diligent in maintaining our forests and when we do sell timber to maximize our return.

I hope that all of you who attended the educational seminar in November found it informative and helpful. We have the presenters' lecture notes available for those who would like a copy.

Our annual banquet will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 27, 2010 at the Legion Hall in Clinton. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Chris Davis, LDWF biologist who will be bringing us up to date on the latest hog control regulations. Hope to see you all there.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your president this year. I thank you for the opportunity.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families,

Mike Salmon

Timber Sale Considerations Seminar

The Association sponsored this seminar on November 9 at the Jackson Civic Center. The purpose was to provide some basic information on timber sales and to encourage landowners to seek professional assistance from a forester, lawyer and accountant when planning a timber sale. Forty-five members attended to learn more about selling their timber correctly.

Area Extension Forester Brian Chandler and LDAF Forester Mike Thomas presented the many things landowners need to think about when getting ready for a timber sale. They discussed reasons for selling timber, when to sell, harvesting methods, whether you try to sell it yourself or hire a consulting forester, payment methods, what things are needed for a timber sale, and meeting with the logger.

Attorney Rob Ligon presented the many legal issues that need to be considered. He discussed timber deeds, mortgages, requirements for a valid sale – description of the timber, price and consent of all parties, and the items that should be included in a written sales contract.

CPA Mack Herrod presented some tax considerations. He discussed the tax differences between forestry as a business or an investment, what is basis, and getting the correct IRS Form 1099.

Copies of the presentation outlines will be available at the annual meeting.

2011 Annual Meeting

As Mike Salmon mentioned in his remarks, the annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 27, at the Clinton Legion Hall. Wildlife biologist Chris Davis will discuss feral hogs. Registration and supper will start at 6 pm. The annual meeting and dues notices will be mailed in early January, but mark your calendars now.

Timber Tax Workshop

The LSU AgCenter is sponsoring a timber tax workshop on Tuesday, January 25. It will be held at Efferson Hall on the LSU campus. The speakers will be USDA Forest Service tax experts Dr Linda Wang and Dr John Greene. Topics they will present include key tax concepts, capital accounts, record keeping, losses, capital gains, forestry expenses, reforestation tax incentives, and cost share payments.

The registration fee is \$40 per person or \$60 per couple. Participants will receive a workbook loaded with information including presentation materials, example worksheets, sample federal forms and other readings. They will also receive a copy of '*Forest Landowners Guide to the Federal Income Tax*', the 150 page timber tax handbook.

The program and registration will be mailed in early January.

Oil and Gas Leasing Seminar

There seems to be some interest lately in leasing property in the Felicianas. The board decided that oil and gas leasing would be a good topic for a seminar for its members. We are in the preliminary stages of developing the program but Tuesday, March 15, has been selected for the seminar. More information will be sent out in February.

Membership

To keep the Association strong and viable, members must recruit new members. If you know of a neighbor, friend, business associate, hunting club member, or anyone else who would benefit from being a member, contact Brian at 225-683-3101 or bchandler@agcenter.lsu.edu. He will send a membership brochure and application to you or the potential member.

Members do not have to be forest landowners. Anyone interested in the management of Louisiana's natural resources for now and future generations are welcome to join. The benefits of membership include educational programs, field days, timber tax tips, state and federal legislative updates, networking with other landowners and resource professionals, and good food.

Merry Christmas to All