



3rd Biennial Shortleaf Pine Conference: Speaker Bios

Timothy Paul Albritton, *Staff Forester,
Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Tim Albritton has been working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Auburn for the past 12 years as their State Staff Forester. He received his Associate Degree in Forest Technology from Patrick Henry State Junior College and a Bachelor of Science in Forest Resources from Auburn University.



Tim began his forestry career with the Alabama Forestry Commission from 1986 where he worked for 18 years. He and his wife, Karen, of 30 years, live in South Elmore County with their daughter, Sarah, a senior at Wetumpka High School. They also have a son, Joseph, a forest ranger with the Alabama Forestry Commission in Montgomery County; and another daughter, Hannah, a Speech Language Pathologist, working in Pensacola, Florida.

Tim is a registered forester with the Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters, and a member of the Society of American Foresters. Tim is a supporter and promoter of the Alabama Treasure Forest Program. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Treasure Forest Association and is involved in the Elmore County chapter. He is a 12-year member of the Alabama Forestry Council and serves as an advisor to the Bradley/Murphy Forestry and Natural Resources Trust.

Tim and his family have been active members of the Mulder Memorial United Methodist Church for 24 years. He enjoys spending his free time working and hunting on his 15 acre Treasure Forest/Tree Farm on the Tallapoosa River with his family.

McRee Anderson, *Director of Fire Restoration Program, The Nature Conservancy-
Arkansas*

McRee Anderson is The Nature Conservancy's Director of Fire Restoration Program in Arkansas and the former Planning Director for the recently formed Shortleaf Pine Initiative. In addition, he is also the South-Central Leader for the Fire Learning Network, with 15 landscape-scale project sites totaling one-half million acres. As Arkansas' Program Director, he co-manages Arkansas Fire Program, conducting over 50 prescribed burns over 10,000 acres annually. McRee is Co-Chair of the Oak Ecosystem Restoration Team, which brings together regional partners to address forest health issues related to altered fire regimes. McRee is a founding member of the Arkansas Prescribed Fire Council and currently serves as Chairman of the council. McRee is involved with international fire and forest management issues in Mexico, Honduras and Zambia, Africa. McRee received a Masters degree in Natural Resources from Portland State University and is certified as a RXB2 burn boss.



Ken Arney, *Deputy Regional Forester-State & Private, USDA Forest Service*

Ken Arney has served 42 years with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Tennessee Department of Agriculture – Division of Forestry, and U.S. Forest Service. He served as State Forester for Tennessee from 1994 to 2001. He has been Deputy Regional Forester – State and Private Forestry for the U.S. Forest Service in the 13 State Southern Region since 2001. With the Forest Service, Ken has responsibility for Fire and Aviation, Forest Health, and Cooperative Forestry. He has played key roles in the redesign of State and Private Forestry programs of the Forest Service so they are more responsive to forest threats and are more effective in conserving forests. He has also been a champion of large-scale protection and restoration efforts like America’s Longleaf Restoration Initiative and Shortleaf Pine Restoration Initiative.



David Arnold, *Assistant State Forester – Grants, Programs and Support, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry*

David Arnold was born and raised in Winchester, Tennessee, graduating from Franklin County High School in 1980. Upon graduation, he enrolled in the pre-forestry curriculum at Middle Tennessee State University. Not ready for the “big city life” offered in Knoxville, David transferred to Auburn University to finish his studies, graduating in 1985 with a B.S. in Forest Management. David ultimately wound up in Knoxville, completing his M. S. in Forest Management at the University of Tennessee in 1990. He is a 25 year employee of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, having filled positions as Area Forester, Staff Forester, Unit Leader and his current position of Assistant State Forester for Grants Programs and Support. His responsibilities include division wide grants management and general administration of the Division’s rural and urban forestry, forest health, and reforestation programs. David has a beautiful wife, Cindy, and two beautiful daughters, Holly and Heather. His hobbies include eating hot wings, catching crawdads, and drumming.



Wayne Bell, *Chief Operating Officer, International Forest Company*

Wayne Bell is currently the Chief Operating Officer for International Forest Company (IFCO) based in Moultrie, GA. IFCO currently is producing over 83 million seedlings supplied to landowners throughout the Southeast U.S. He is a graduate of the Warnell School of Forestry at the University of Georgia. His career has spanned over 43 years in GA, AL, and FL which includes forest management, forest seed production, and nursery management. He started the first commercial container seedling nursery in the Southeast U.S. in 1983. Wayne is a Certified Forester, Fellow in the Society of American Foresters, and is a National SAF board member. He also serves on the board of directors for the Georgia Forestry Association, the





Georgia Forestry Foundation, and is a member of several forestry associations throughout the Southeast.

Mike Black, *Director, Shortleaf Pine Initiative*



Martin Blaney, *Habitat Coordinator, Wildlife Management Bureau, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission*

Martin Blaney is the Habitat Coordinator for the Wildlife Management Division of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. He has been employed by the Commission for 29 years. During that time, he provided oversight of the habitat management program on 400,000 acres of state-owned Wildlife Management Areas; was the agency spokesperson on forest/wildlife related matters, and was an agency liaison to the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Blaney has been a registered Forester in Arkansas since 1983; a Certified Forester with the Society of American Foresters since 2002; and a registered land surveyor in 1984 (past). He holds a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Arkansas at Monticello (1979) and belongs to a variety of professional organizations. Blaney was a founding member in the Oak Ecosystem Restoration Team and the Arkansas Prescribed Burn Council.

Dr. Jane Fitzgerald, *Central Hardwoods Joint Venture Coordinator, American Bird Conservancy & Interior Highlands Shortleaf Pine Initiative*

Jane Fitzgerald, an employee of American Bird Conservancy, has served as the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture Coordinator, a regional partnership for bird conservation focused on the Central Hardwoods Bird Conservation Region, for over 14 years. Prior to her work with the Joint Venture, Jane was the Midwest Coordinator for Partners in Flight, an international landbird conservation initiative, for over 5 years. Jane has a Ph.D. in Zoology, with an emphasis in avian ecology and animal behavior, from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.



Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer, *Professor of Geography & Associate Department Head, University of Tennessee-Knoxville*

Henri D. Grissino-Mayer is a Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Director of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science. He studies ecosystem disturbance processes and uses dendrochronology, the science of tree rings, to address changes in these processes both spatially and temporally. His research concentrates on using tree-ring data to analyze the history of wildfires, the history of past climate, and the dating of historic structures and objects. He has given or co-presented over 400 professional presentations and invited talks and published over 115 peer-reviewed papers. His research was twice honored with Discover Magazine's Top Science Stories in 1992 and 2006, while the Weather Channel in 2006 voted his research as one of the 100 Greatest Moments in Weather History. At the University of Tennessee, he was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Professional Promise in Research in 2005, the Chancellor's Award for Extraordinary Service in 2009, and the College of Arts and Sciences' Senior Research Award in 2013. In 2014, the National Council for Geographic Education awarded him the Geographic Excellence in Media Award while the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers awarded him their top Research Honors Award. In recent years, he and his students have appeared in television documentaries shown on the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, the Investigation Discovery Channel, the Learning Channel, the Weather Channel, the National Geographic Channel, and Court TV.



Dr. Jim Guldin, *Supervisory Research Ecologist & Project Leader, USDA Forest Service-Southern Region*

James M. Guldin, (goes by "Jim") is Supervisory Research Ecologist for the Southern Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Guldin serves as Project Leader for two Southern Station Research Work Units:

- 1) SRS-4159, Ecology and Management of Southern Pines: The Southern Pine unit has subunit locations at Monticello AR, Nacogdoches TX, Pineville LA, Hot Springs AR, Crossett AR, and Huntsville AL, and manages both the Crossett Experimental Forest in Crossett, Arkansas, and the Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest in Nacogdoches, Texas.
- 2) SRS-4158, Restoring Longleaf Pine Ecosystems: The Longleaf unit has subunit locations in Auburn AL, Pineville LA, Clemson SC, and Brewton AL, and manages both the Palustris Experimental Forest in Alexandria, Louisiana, and the Escambia Experimental Forest in Brewton, Alabama.



Scientists in the two units have expertise in silviculture, forest ecology, tree physiology, growth and yield, vegetation structure and dynamics, plantation establishment and development, forest soils, and a suite of wildlife species including mammals, birds, lepidopterans, reptiles, and amphibians.

Guldin's personal research is in silvicultural practices for managing southern pine stands, with emphasis on management of naturally-regenerated southern pine stands. He's an alleged expert



in the theory and application of uneven-aged silvicultural systems in intolerant southern pines, and on the restoration of shortleaf pine-bluestem woodlands in the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Guldin has a B.S. in Forest Science from Penn State in 1975, a Masters' of Forest Science from Yale University in 1977, and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1982. He holds adjunct faculty appointments at the University of Arkansas, the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Oklahoma State University, and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

Guldin is active in the Society of American Foresters, and is outgoing Chair of the D2 Silviculture Working Group. He's a member of the International Union of Forest Research Organization's 1.05.00 Uneven-aged Silviculture Working Group (and will host the next meeting of this group in Arkansas in spring of 2016). He's on the Editorial Board for the British journal, *Forestry*. He's a member of the Technical Advisory Board of the Arkansas Field Office of The Nature Conservancy. And he was recently named to two major regional advisory groups: 1) the Science Advisory Council for the St. Louis-based L-A-D Foundation, which manages the 160,000-ac Pioneer Forest in southern Missouri, and 2) the Longleaf Partnership Council, an advisory group of Federal, State, industry, private landowners, and conservation groups charged with implementation of the 2010 America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative.

Dr. George Hernandez, *Regional Regeneration Specialist, USDA Forest Service*

Dr. Hernández received a BS in Agriculture with a minor in Horticulture from the University of Kentucky in 1973. He served with the Marine Corps in Viet Nam and with the Peace Corps in Colombia. Spent 15 years working in the ornamental nursery business managing greenhouses, nursery production of field grown shade trees, container grown shrubs, perennials and cut flowers. He received a MS in Forestry at Clemson University in 1991 and a Ph. D. in Natural Resource Management from Clemson University in 1994. He has been with the USDA Forest Service for 20 years and currently he is the Regional Regeneration Specialist with the Forest Service Southern Region Cooperative Forestry. He provides technical assistance to nurseries in the 13 Southern states, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.



Dr. William Hubbard, *Southern Regional Extension Forester, Southern Regional Extension Forestry*

William Hubbard is the Southern Regional Extension Forester based at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, USA. He facilitates regional Extension and university outreach for the 13 southern land-grant universities and the USDA Forest Service. He serves state forestry agencies and others within the southern forestry community in a variety of capacities. In the past, Dr. Hubbard was a state Extension Forester and Forest Management Instructor at the University of Florida from 1987-1993. He has been in his current position for 22 years.





He received a B.S. in Forest Management from the University of Florida in 1985, an M.S. in Forest Economics from the University of Florida in 1987 and a PhD in Adult Education and Program Evaluation at the University of Georgia in 2010.

Dr. Hubbard has been a Principal Investigator on over \$5 million in federal grants and contracts related to bioenergy, climate change, forest restoration, new technologies and Extension and outreach programs. He has published on several of these topics including authoring a book chapter on Wood Bioenergy for "Bioenergy: Biomass to Biofuels" (2015) textbook and co-authoring several climate change publications. More information on Dr. Hubbard's projects can be found at <http://www.sref.info>.

Andrew Nix, *Forester, Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries*

Daniel A. "Drew" Nix is a forester with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, Wildlife Section. Drew has been in this position since August 1996. His duties encompass timber and wildlife habitat management on approximately 90,000 acres of Division owned lands, and another 85,000 acres of mitigation lands. Drew held forestry positions with the Alabama Forestry Commission and Gulf States Paper Corporation before coming to Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. Drew is a graduate of Hokes Bluff High School and Auburn University, and spent 10 years in the United States Air Force and Alabama Air National Guard, as a Space Communications Operator/Technician. Drew is an Alabama Registered Forester, and holds certifications as a Certified Prescribed Burn Manager and Commercial Pesticide Applicator in Alabama. When not at work Drew enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with his wife Ericha and their five dogs on an old dairy farm in Fort Davis, Alabama.



Dr. Joy O'Keefe, *Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Director, Center for Bat Research, Indiana State University*

Joy O'Keefe is an Assistant Professor of Biology and the Director of the Center for Bat Research, Outreach, and Conservation at Indiana State University. She conducts applied research on bat ecology in managed forests and urban areas in Indiana, North Carolina, and Tennessee.



Bill Pickens, *Conifer Silviculturist Specialist, North Carolina Forest Service*

Bill is a Staff Forester for Conifer Silviculture with the NC Forest Service. He has worked for the NC Forest Service the past 27 years holding positions as 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 silviculture and prescribed fire 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 BS in Forest Science.



David Schnake, *Forest Manager, North Carolina Division of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences Research Stations Division*

David Schnake is the Forest Manager for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Research Stations Division. Since 2010 he has overseen the forest management of North Carolina's statewide system of 25 agricultural research stations and University field laboratories. He is also a lecturer at North Carolina State University's College of Forest Resources. Prior to coming to North Carolina, David was a country forester with the Virginia Department of Forestry. David is a proud Colorado State University Ram and Mississippi State University Bulldog.

Jonathan Scott, *Manager, Southern Regional Office, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation*

Jon Scott is manager for the Southern Regional Office of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) where he assists with strategic planning and implementation of the Longleaf Stewardship Fund, Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund and other Southeast conservation grant programs. Prior to joining the NFWF team, he worked in various capacities with land trusts in North Carolina and Virginia to conserve important wildlife habitat and working lands. Jon has a BS in Wood Products and Masters of Natural Resources from N.C. State University.

Robin Taylor, *Manager of Beech Creek and Chilhowee Genetic Resource Management Areas, USDA Forest Service*

Robin Taylor has been the Manager for the Beech Creek and Chilhowee Genetic Resource Management Areas (GRMA) for 17 years. Taylor has been employed by the Forest Service for 32 years and working with seed orchards/ GRMA for 30 of those years.



Rod Will, *Professor, Natural Resource Ecology & Management, Oklahoma State University*

Rodney Will is a professor of forestry at Oklahoma State University who specializes in the ecology, physiology and silviculture of southern pines. Regarding shortleaf pine research, he has studied growth and yield of plantations, factors that affect seedling resprouting after topkill by fire, and the ecological mechanisms related to increased hybridization between shortleaf and loblolly pine.

Bob Williams, *Owner & Forester, Pine Creek Forestry LLC*

Bob has been involved with forest management since the summer of 1974. He is presently the owner of Pine Creek Forestry LLC operating in the Pinelands National Reserve in southern New Jersey. He has been working with the active management of shortleaf pine for the past 25 years. He has extensive experience with using prescribed fire for several decades. Bob presently assists private landowners with the management of their forest lands that total over 150,000 acres. His most significant and current project is the re-introduction of wild bobwhite quail on to a managed pine forest in concert with the New Jersey Audubon Society and Tall Timbers Research Station.