
Mississippi Chapter Sierra Club

Golden Triangle Group

CROSSROADS

October 2005 – January 2006



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

EVENTS

OCTOBER

Sun., Oct. 23rd, 9:30 a.m. **Canoe and Picnic at Bluff Lake, Noxubee Wildlife Refuge.** We will meet at the boat ramp on Bluff Lake for the canoe trip. Bring your lunch and water. At noon, we'll dock the boats and have a picnic on the tables by the boat ramp. After eating, we'll stop in at the Visitor's Center to view their exciting exhibits and store. If you don't have your own boat and lifejackets, please call Juliet Tang (662-338-5426) in advance so we can make arrangements for you. Gear is limited. Rain date is Sun., Oct 30th.

NOVEMBER

Sat., Nov. 5th, 8:00 a.m. **Hiking Trip to Tishomingo State Park.** This trip starts at the Old Jitney Jungle parking lot on the corner of 12E and Oktoc Rd in Starkville at 8 am. The Jitney Jungle sign is gone but look for Corky's Liquor Store, Taste of China Restaurant, BeeBop Record Store, and a Cadence Bank (formerly NBC Bank) in this shopping center. Pack your lunch and water. We'll take Route 82E to 45N, then pick up the Natchez Trace on the other side of Tupelo. At mile marker 304, we'll exit for the State Park. Our first stop will be the park headquarters where we'll find trail maps and view Native American artifacts on display. Then we'll find a picnic area for lunch. After lunch, we'll hike the scenic and exciting Bear Creek Outcropping Trail (about a 2 mi loop), scenic because we're hoping for some spectacular fall foliage and exciting because the trail has a 200 ft long swinging bridge that passes over boulder-strewn Bear Creek. For more information, call Juliet Tang (662-338-5426). Rain date is Sun., Nov 6th.

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 10th, 6:00 p.m. **Holiday Gathering and Potluck** at the home of Harold and Frances

Thompson, 608 Lakeview Dr., Starkville. True to tradition, the Thompson's will host our annual Christmas potluck dinner. Come and join us for this special celebration. Calendar orders can be picked up and paid for. From Highway 82, go north on Old West Point Rd. Take the 3rd left onto Critz St., the 2nd right onto Overstreet Dr., then left on Lakeview Dr. For more information, call the Thompsons at 662-323-7379.

JANUARY

Wed., Jan. 11th, 6:00 p.m. **Potluck and Planning** at David Cross and Juliet Tang's home, 211 Edgewood Dr., Starkville. Bring suggestions for spring programs, outings, and newsletter articles. From Highway 82, go north on Old West Point Rd. Take the 3rd left onto Critz St., then the 1st right onto Edgewood Dr. For more information, call Juliet Tang at 662-338-5426.

Wed., Jan. 25th, 7:00 p.m. **Program. Preventing Outbreaks of West Nile Virus.** Dr. Blake Layton of the Entomology Department will explain the dangers of West Nile Virus and make recommendations for control of the mosquito vector. Room 117, Clay Lyle Building, MSU Campus. For more information, call Juliet Tang at 662-338-5426.

CALL FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION

President George Bush has called for energy conservation nationwide. BRAVO. It may or may not protect ANWR but the cost of gas is forcing conservation on those who would not normally advocate it. Post-Katrina statistics report that fuel consumption has dropped 3% in the last month. Do what you can to staunch the flow. Challenge

yourself and get to work on less fuel whether by carpooling, bicycling, walking, using public transportation, or on that sporty little scooter you've been dreaming about.

USE EMAIL FOR NEWSLETTER AND CLUB NOTIFICATIONS

Email Juliet Tang (jtang@mafes.msstate.edu) if you would like to receive this newsletter electronically. Also, please specify if you want to be included in our email list for club notifications.

HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY BRINGS ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES TO MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL FORESTS

National Forests in the deep South, including Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana, felt the effects of Hurricane Katrina that brings both challenges and opportunities for the Forest Service. Affected districts like the DeSoto and Homochitto National Forests will be working to remove fallen and damaged trees and assessing a future direction for the affected lands. Many conservationists are looking for the agency to use this event as a chance to bring some long term planning that will restore the forests in a way that will leave them healthier. Stands of trees affected by the storm had been artificial loblolly and slash pine plantations. A great deal of research has appeared in recent years that shows that such stands are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters such as disease and storms. The Forest Service has made as a central part of its mission the restoration of native ecosystems. The reforestation of Katrina-affected stands offers the opportunity to bring about some of this restoration. The agency has gathered a great deal of research into the historic forest types that once dominated the region.

"The Forest Service in the De Soto plans to do recovery and move toward further longleaf pine restoration in a project just like the one used on the Conecuh in Alabama. It is a good plan, and Congress should just let the good people in the agency do their jobs, because the Forest Service knows that the laws work when given the chance," says Ray Vaughan of WildLaw, an environmental law firm that has recently visited the DeSoto and the Chickasawhay districts. The Conecuh in Alabama made ecosystem recovery part of its recovery plan

after Hurricane Ivan in an Environmental Assessment that sought participation from the public and other government agencies. Vaughan says that the recovery was very successful.

While there have been calls by some to suspend environmental standards for hurricane recovery-related activities, examples such as these show that careful planning and response is effective. Conservationists are calling for the Forest Service and other agencies to continue to use proven procedures to respond to Katrina, and to implement planning that looks to a future for our National Forests that leaves them healthier and stronger.

For more information, contact:

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NOMINATIONS REQUESTED

Nominations are being taken to fill 3 positions on the Golden Triangle Group Executive Committee. The term of each position is 2 years and will begin January 2006. Any member in good standing is eligible for nomination by the nominating committee or by petition, i.e. you nominate yourself. The deadline for nominations is Nov. 1. Call Juliet Tang at 662-338-5426 for more information or to make submissions. Voting ballots will be mailed to all members in early December. Please vote.

SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS FOR SALE

Adorn your days with breathtaking scenes from Nature and purchase your Sierra Club Calendar now. All proceeds from Calendar orders placed with us go towards supporting local conservation efforts. Two styles are available, a hanging wall calendar for \$11.95 and a desk engagement calendar for \$12.95. To order, call Juliet Tang at 662-338-5426 by Oct. 31st. Calendars can be picked up at our December meeting.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The next newsletter will be published in February.
Send any suggestions or announcements to Juliet
Tang 662-338-5426.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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* Ex Comm, two year term, ends Dec. 2005

**Ex Comm, two year term, ends Dec. 2006



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FOREST SERVICE RELEASES OLD-GROWTH INVENTORY LIST SHOWS MISSISSIPPI'S REMAINING CONSERVATION HERITAGE

The National Forests in Mississippi has released the first comprehensive inventory of old growth forest stands, revealing remnants of forestland that date back up to 120-150 years, including stands dating back to the 1700s.

As a part of its revision of the long range management plan for the National Forests in Mississippi, the agency has gathered data in order to have a comprehensive study of not only its oldest forestland, but also of rare forest types that have largely disappeared. The inventory has been posted on the agency's website.

http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/mississippi/forest_plan/old_growth/

The inventory, which was released in August, breaks down the old growth communities known to exist in the Bienville, Delta, DeSoto, Holly Springs, Homochitto, and Tombigbee districts by age and the type of forest community.

Among the stands of forest communities listed:
-Upland Longleaf and South Florida Slash Pine Forest/Savannah dating from 1768
DeSoto NF-River Floodplain Forest from 1788
Delta NF-Xeric Pine and Pine Oak Forest stands from the 1870s
Homochitto NF-Dry and Xeric Oak Forest from 1856
Holly Springs NF

Davis Mounger of Friends of Mississippi Public Lands is pleased with the report, noting, "What one calls 'old' is relative to the history of the land. Mississippi doesn't have large tracts of virgin forest land like the West still does. The inventory takes into account stands of trees as young as 50 years old, which is realistic, considering that most of our public lands are farmland that was reclaimed in the 1930s. It's great to see a number of 150 year old stands. These areas should be taken care of so people can know what a real forest looks like. This inventory is a rough guide to our conservation

heritage." Mounger adds: "We hope that the Forest Service considers protecting these older stands when it revises its forest plan."

For more information:

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NEW REPORT UNVEILS LIST OF AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED FORESTS

Groundbreaking economic analysis reveals Bush Administration's push for more industrial logging defies market realities.

MISSOULA, MT – Today, the National Forest Protection Alliance released its third bi-annual report listing twelve of the country's most endangered national forests. The report, America's Endangered National Forests: Lumber, Landfill or Living Legacy?, also provides a groundbreaking economic analysis demonstrating that the Bush Administration's push for more industrial logging in our nation's public forests defies the market realities for wood products. The report can be downloaded at:

<http://www.forestadvocate.org/endangered/index.html>

America's Most Endangered Forests: Malheur National Forest (OR), Siskiyou National Forest (OR), Oregon BLM Forests; Allegheny National Forest (PA); Bighorn National Forest (WY); Daniel Boone National Forest (KY); Los Padres National Forest (CA); George Washington & Jefferson National Forest (VA); Rio Grande National Forest (CO); Tongass National Forest (AK); National Forests in Mississippi; Bitterroot National Forest (MT). Special Mention: Black Hills National Forest (SD) and Nantahala National Forest (NC). Threatened: Carson National Forest (NM); Wayne National Forest (OH); Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (KY); Flathead National Forest (MT); Kaibab National Forest (AZ); Michigan National Forests: (Huron-Manistee, Hiawatha and Ottawa); Klamath National Forest (CA); Nez Perce National Forest (ID); Umpqua National Forest (OR).

This year's report is unique in that it offers the most up-to-date analysis of the marketplace for wood products from national forests. The major conclusion drawn from this research is that the market share of national forest wood products will likely remain near its current level – 2% of the U.S.'s total consumption – despite the federal government's efforts to increase industrial logging through higher subsidies and policies like the Healthy Forests Initiative.

"This 2% of our lumber and paper supply comes at the highest ecological cost to our nation's environment," said Jake Kreilick, NFPA's Endangered Forests Project Coordinator. "Much of the logging is still directed at the most sensitive forested habitats remaining in the U.S., including roadless areas, ancient, old-growth forests and critical fish and wildlife habitat." For example, in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, all of the wood logged from America's largest national forest comes from old-growth temperate rainforests and much of it is shipped to Asia. Since the Bush Administration exempted the Tongass from the Roadless Area Conservation Rule in 2003, the agency has made plans for fifty roadless area timber sales over the next ten years.

What this means for the National Forests in Mississippi.

The report lists the National Forests in Mississippi as one of the ten most endangered National Forests in the United States. This is the second time for the NF in MS to make the list. This designation is due to our state's National Forests being often an extreme example of the mismanagement of our country's federal lands. With much of the 1.1 million acres of Mississippi National Forests converted to pine plantations and a history of high-volume logging that is expected to increase, the report highlights the problems and prospects for the Bienville, Chickasawhay, Delta, DeSoto, Holly Springs, Homochitto, and Tombigbee districts. Included in the report is a discussion of the forest's future under an upcoming new management plan that could bring a new direction for Mississippi forest management, or an exploitive "business as usual" approach that continues to cheapen our conservation heritage.

"The National Forest Protection Alliance believes that the marketplace provides a new and effective avenue for protecting and restoring national forests. It's clear that citizens can no longer rely exclusively on Congress or the Bush Administration to protect these public forests, as they are the very entities

promoting more industrial logging and development," stated Jeanette Russell of the National Forest Protection Alliance.

Key Ecological Findings:

- Since 2002, the volume of the federal logging program has grown by over 300 million board feet in large part to an escalation of logging in Oregon, California and the South. The USFS continues to use fire risk reduction and forest health as the primary management rationales.

- Oregon has more at-risk national forests than any other state. Representing some of the nation's most diverse old-growth forests remaining, these forests contain the region's largest roadless areas, which provide critical habitat for threatened and endangered species.

- Logging on eastern national forests continues to rise, as demonstrated in the profiles of the Allegheny, George Washington & Jefferson, Daniel Boone, and Mississippi National Forests.

- Most all of the forests featured in the report face significant threats to roadless areas from logging, roadbuilding, grazing, ORVs and the Bush Administration's state-driven roadless policy. Consequently, protecting roadless areas is no longer a priority of the Forest Service and many are now proposed for development.

- Energy development for coal, oil, natural gas, and coalbed methane gas remains unchecked on a handful of national forests (Daniel Boone, Allegheny, Los Padres, Carson, Huron-Manistee) and a growing problem on many others due to the Bush-Cheney Energy Plan.

- Other prominent threats to the environmental quality of the national forest system include the growing impacts from the proliferation of Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) for motorized recreation, ski area development and continuing problems from urban encroachment and transportation development.

The National Forest Protection Alliance is a network of 135 organizations that protect and restore America's national forests. You can learn more by visiting: <http://www.forestadvocate.org>.

For More Information:

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