



# 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

*In conjunction with the  
2024 Southcentral Region Spring Meeting*

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*Sustaining Progress  
Navigating Change*



THE WESTIN NASHVILLE  
807 CLARK PL, NASHVILLE, TN 37203

APRIL 29 – MAY 1, 2024

**WWW.FORESTRESOURCES.ORG**



# FARM CREDIT

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# Welcome Letter

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## WELCOME TO NASHVILLE, TENNESSE!

Welcome to the Westin Nashville for the FRA 2024 Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the 2024 Southcentral Region Meeting. We are pleased to share a great lineup of speakers and events during your time here. Please remember that sessions are open to all unless otherwise noted.

We will begin Monday, April 29, at 8:00 a.m. with the **Southcentral Region Meeting** (*by registration only*). Speakers include **SmartLam North America's CEO, Derek Ratchford**, who will discuss "U.S. Operations and the Future of Cross-Laminated Timber/Mass Timber." A special FRA and University Partnerships Panel will follow. **Candice Dinwiddie, Executive Director for the Tennessee Forestry Association**, and **Heather Slayton, State Forester and Assistant Commissioner of the Tennessee Division of Forestry**, will guide a session on innovative approaches to promote logger safety. Finally, **Rebecca Barnard, 2024 President of the Society of American Foresters (SAF)**, will provide an update on SAF activities. At 11:45 a.m., the Southcentral Region Steering Committee Business meeting will begin. The Southcentral Region Meeting adjourns at 1:00 p.m.

Later that day, the 2024 FRA Annual Meeting begins. The **FRA Executive Committee** will meet to discuss FRA's current financial and operational position and critical industry issues and priorities (*by invitation only*). Following a **Welcome Lunch**, we invite you to attend the **Annual Meeting Kick-Off** at 3:00 p.m. with a special video message from **Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)**. Following the Senator's message, **Heather Slayton, State Forester and Assistant Commissioner of the Tennessee Division of Forestry**, will welcome members to Tennessee. The **National Public Policy/Advocacy Committee Meeting** will immediately follow at 3:30 p.m. **Les Werner, Director of the Wisconsin Forestry Center, College of Natural Resources, UW Stevens Point**, will be offering a presentation on the "National Forest Operations Training Coalition: Inception and Next Steps." At 4:15 p.m., **Rebecca Barnard, Forestry Certification Manager for Sappi North America**, will lead a discussion on the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). At 5:30 p.m., all are invited to end the day's events with a **Welcome Reception and Dinner** on the rooftop terrace.

Following breakfast on Tuesday, April 30, we will open at 8:00 a.m. with the **2024 Annual Member Meeting** immediately followed by our first CEO Speaker Session. **Brad Southern, Chairman and CEO of LP Building Solutions**, will deliver a discussion titled "Forester as CEO: Lessons Learned on a Leadership Journey." At 10:00 a.m., we resume with our Keynote Speaker, **Curtis Dubay, Chief Economist of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce**, presenting a national and global economic outlook. At 11:00 a.m., the National Operations Committee Meeting begins, where we will hear from **Jeff Widmer, Senior Business Consultant for Trimble**, as he discusses tracking wood from the harvest site to the mill, providing insight into meeting geolocation criteria for the EUDR. The **Committee Business Meeting** will immediately follow these speakers.

After lunch, we have our second CEO Speaker Session with **Lee Ann Steigerwaldt, President and CEO of Steigerwaldt**, who will join us to discuss "Consulting Business Perspective on Forest and Land Management Changes." The **National Supplier/Consumer Relations Committee Meeting** begins at 2:30 p.m. with special guest speaker **Haroon Syed, VP of Dedicated Services for Schneider**. Haroon will be presenting on "Maximizing Your Return on Investment with Safety & Technology." We will round out the day with a reception and the **National Awards Dinner and THATS Live Auction**, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 1, starts early with breakfast from 7:00 a.m. and the **THATS Foundation Meeting** at 7:30 a.m., followed by guest speaker **Adam Smith, Wood Innovations Specialist for the U.S. Forest Service**. The **Board of Directors Meeting** immediately follows, where we will hear and review Committee reports and make the decisions that will guide the Association through the year.

***A special thank you to all our sponsors for supporting our Annual Meeting!***

Look to FRA staff if there is anything they can do to make your participation more worthwhile or your stay in Nashville more enjoyable.

Thank you,



Pete Stewart  
FRA Chairman



Tim O'Hara  
FRA Interim President

# Antitrust Statement

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The Forest Resources Association supports members' commitment to full compliance with all antitrust laws, whether of state or federal jurisdiction, and believes that an active education program to acquaint members with the requirements of these laws will foster productive association work while promoting free enterprise. At FRA meetings, there must be no discussions related to prices, or terms of purchase or sale, of products FRA members buy and sell or of other matters which might inhibit the competitive workings of the free market, including actions which may divide markets or create boycotts. The meeting secretary, or anyone attending the meeting, may interrupt the meeting if at any time he or she feels discussion is creating the possibility of an anticompetitive situation, or the appearance of one.

## Basic Principles

FRA meetings offer an important opportunity for education, exchange of ideas, networking with fellow industry members, and engagement with colleagues. Our hope is that each attendee will benefit from their participation. In this light and with the goal of ensuring that the meeting is welcoming and inclusive for all, FRA puts forward the following guidelines for professional conduct:

- **Maintain professional behavior.** Avoid conduct that can create an offensive environment. Our remarks and interactions with all attendees must be professional at all times. Treat other attendees with dignity and respect and work to develop conditions of respect, acceptance, and trust both within official events and at surrounding activities (receptions, offsite visits, etc.)
- **Respect the agenda.** Make sure to follow the agenda which details which items are listed for discussion, and which items involve decisions.
- **Be open to consensus.** Keep an open mind that there probably is an acceptable decision that everyone can support, even if some degree of compromise is required.
- **Listen actively to others.** Listen to understand what is being said instead of thinking of how to respond to statements others have made.
- **Manage your own input – no long speeches.** Be clear in thought when you have the opportunity to give your opinion.
- **Strive to meet the stated purpose and expected outcomes of the meeting.** If you can achieve this, then the meeting will be successful. If you get stuck with difficult discussion, refer to the purpose and expected outcomes to re-focus energies.
- **Leave the meeting with a clear sense of next steps.** Make notes of who is responsible to do what and by when -- include this information in meeting minutes.
- **Discussions will be treated as confidential as appropriate.**

If for any reason you feel uncomfortable with any behavior, please feel encouraged to reach out to an FRA staff member.

# BUILDING A BETTER WORLD™ WITH SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

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energy source



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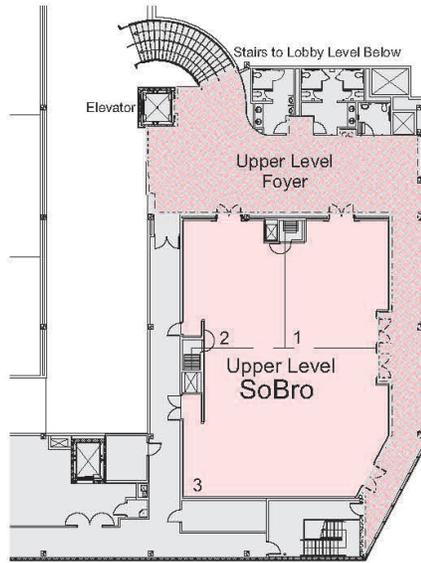


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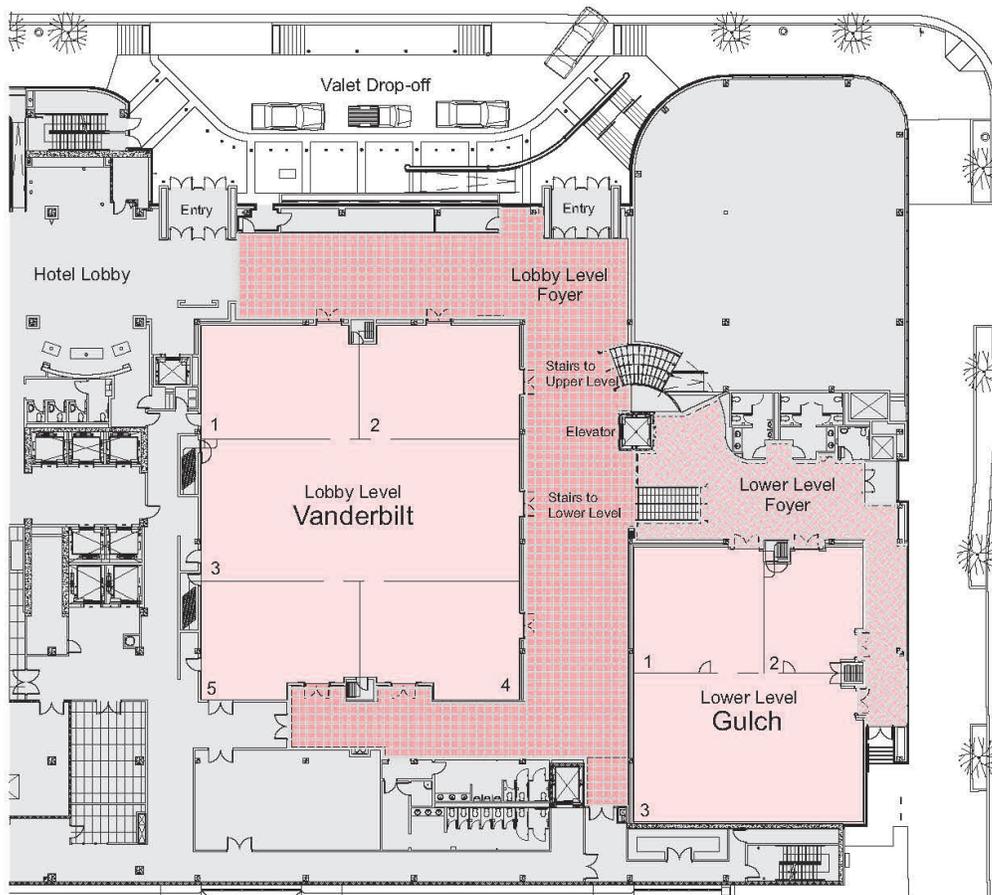


**DOWNLOAD THE 2023 LP  
SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**

# Hotel Map



Upper Level Plan



Lobby Level and Lower Level Plans

# Meeting Agenda

## FRA 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

In conjunction with the FRA 2024 Southcentral Region Spring Meeting

Monday, April 29 – Wednesday, May 1, 2024

The Westin Nashville – Nashville, TN

“Sustaining Progress, Navigating Change”

*All times are listed in Central*

### MONDAY, APRIL 29

### ROOM

8:00AM – 5:00PM      Registration      Vanderbilt Prefunction

#### FRA 2024 Southcentral Region Meeting

8:00AM – 9:30AM	Southcentral Region Meeting Awards Breakfast	Vanderbilt III-V
9:30AM – 11:45AM	Southcentral Region Meeting	Vanderbilt III-V
9:30AM – 10:15AM	<b>SmartLam’s US Operations and the Future of Cross-Laminated Timber/Mass Timber</b> <i>Derek Ratchford – CEO, SmartLam North America</i>	
10:15AM – 11:00AM	<b>FRA &amp; University Partnerships: Can the Timber Harvesting &amp; Procurement Short Course Be a Model for Future Collaboration?</b> <i>Dr. Dale Greene – Retired Dean, Warnell School of Forestry &amp; Natural Resources, University of Georgia</i> <i>Dr. Tom Gallagher – Emeritus Professor of Forest Operations, Auburn University</i> <i>Panel Moderator: Dr. Joe Conrad – Associate Professor of Forest Operations, Warnell School of Forestry &amp; Natural Resources, University of Georgia</i>	
11:00AM – 11:30AM	<b>An Innovative Approach to Promote Logger Safety</b> <i>Candace Dinwiddie – Executive Director, Tennessee Forestry Association</i> <i>Heather Slayton – State Forester and Assistant Commissioner, Tennessee Division of Forestry</i>	
11:30 AM – 11:45 AM	<b>Society of American Foresters (SAF) Update</b> <i>Rebecca Barnard – 2024 President, Society of American Foresters</i>	
11:45AM – 1:00PM	Southcentral Region Steering Committee Business Meeting	Vanderbilt III-V
1:00PM	Southcentral Region Meeting Adjourns	

# Meeting Agenda

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## MONDAY, APRIL 29

## ROOM

### FRA 2024 Annual Meeting

11:30AM – 2:30PM	Executive Committee Meeting with Working Lunch <i>By Invitation Only</i>	Gulch I-II
12:30PM – 2:00PM	Welcome Lunch	Gulch III
3:00PM – 3:30PM	FRA 2024 Annual Meeting Kick-Off <i>Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) - Video Welcome Message</i> <i>Heather Slayton - State Forester and Assistant Commissioner, Tennessee Division of Forestry</i>	Vanderbilt III-V
3:30PM – 5:00PM	National Public Policy/Advocacy Committee Session	Vanderbilt III-V
3:30PM – 4:15PM	<b>National Forest Operations Training Coalition: Inception and Next Steps</b> <i>Les Werner- Director of Wisconsin Forestry Center, College of Natural Resources, UW Stevens Point</i>	
4:15PM – 5:00PM	<b>The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)</b> <i>Rebecca Barnard – Forestry Certification Manager, Sappi North America</i>	
5:00PM – 5:15 PM	Committee Business Meeting	
5:30PM	Welcome Reception & Dinner	L-27 Roof Terrace
From 7:00 PM	Enjoy Broadway at your Leisure	

## TUESDAY, APRIL 30

## ROOM

7:00AM – 5:30PM	Registration	Vanderbilt Prefunction
7:00AM – 8:00AM	Breakfast	Gulch
8:00AM – 8:45AM	FRA Annual Member Meeting	Gulch
9:00AM – 9:45AM	CEO Speaker Session: <b>Forester as CEO: Lessons Learned on a Leadership Journey</b> <i>Brad Southern – Chairman and CEO, LP Building Solutions</i>	Vanderbilt III-V
10:00AM – 10:45AM	Keynote Speaker Session: <b>Economic Outlook – How Stable is the U.S. Economy?</b> <i>Curtis Dubay – Chief Economist, U.S. Chamber of Commerce</i>	Vanderbilt III-V
10:45AM – 11:00AM	Break	

# Meeting Agenda

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## TUESDAY, APRIL 30

## ROOM

11:00AM – 12:30PM	National Supplier/Consumer Relations Committee Meeting	SoBro
11:00AM – 11:45AM	<b>Tracking Wood from Harvest Site to the Mill: Meeting Geolocation Criteria for EUDR</b> <i>Jeff Widmer - Senior Business Consultant, Trimble</i>	
11:45AM - 12:30PM	Committee Business Meeting	
12:30PM – 1:30PM	Lunch	Gulch
1:30PM – 2:15PM	CEO Speaker Session: <b>Consulting Business Perspective on Forest and Land Management Changes</b> <i>Lee Ann Steigerwaldt – President and CEO, Steigerwaldt</i>	Vanderbilt III-V
2:30PM – 4:00PM	National Operations Committee Meeting	SoBro
2:30PM – 3:15PM	<b>Changing the Narrative: Safety &amp; Sustainability</b> <i>Haroon Syed – VP of Dedicated Services, Schneider</i>	
3:15PM - 4:00PM	Committee Business Meeting	
5:30PM – 6:15PM	Reception	Vanderbilt Prefunction
6:15PM	National Awards Dinner and THATS Live Auction	Vanderbilt

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

## ROOM

7:00AM – 9:00AM	Breakfast	Gulch
7:30AM – 9:00AM	THATS Foundation Meeting	SoBro II
9:00AM – 9:30AM	Speaker Session: <b>Wood Innovations Program: Impacts and Opportunities</b> <i>Adam Smith - Wood Innovations Specialist, U.S. Forest Service</i>	Gulch
9:30AM – 11:30AM	Board of Directors Meeting	Gulch
11:30AM	FRA 2024 Annual Meeting Adjourns	

***Meetings are open to all unless otherwise stated.***



Connecting the forest, **every step of the way.**

## Who we are

**We are experts in the forestry supply chain.** We know what makes it tick, we design the systems that keep all parties connected and **we have decades of first-hand insights** into how to avoid the missteps that result in costly downtime, needless injuries and frustrated customers. Our technology connects people, products and processes to empower.

## What we do

Trimble® Forestry provides an **adaptive, flexible, industry-leading technical 'backbone'** to the forestry supply chain that is so integral you may not know it's there. However, what's clearly evident is the critical intel our system generates so your team can make informed, data-driven decisions in real time **that drive productivity, profitability and sustainability gains.**

## Our brand promise

Trimble connects the entire forestry supply chain. **Our solutions enable customers to 'listen to their forest'** to ensure every link of the chain is optimized for efficiency, every connection is seamless and sustainability is embedded every step of the way. By leveraging digital workflows to connect and optimize the raw materials procurement process, Trimble Forestry solutions **enhance transparency, reduce human error and drive new efficiencies** that enhance productivity and profitability.

## What it means

**We bring the expertise, experience** and proven solutions that will optimize every link in your forestry supply chain. The result? **A connected operation that's seamless, streamlined and sustainable every step of the way.**

## Why it matters

Regardless of how lumber is used or where it ends up, it all starts in a forest. And since it can take many forms and end up in many places, tracking the wood from forest to finish **helps maximize efficiency throughout the entire process**, while providing end consumers with a line of sight into each log's journey. Each journey may be different, but with Trimble technology you and customers will have the **confidence of unparalleled transparency, every step of the way.**

For more information go to [www.trimbleforestry.com](http://www.trimbleforestry.com)

# Speaker Bios



## **Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)**

**Member of the United States Senate**

*Prerecorded Welcome Message*

U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn was sworn in to the Senate in January 2019.

Marsha Blackburn was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2018, and is currently serving her first term representing the state of Tennessee. Before her election to the Senate, Marsha represented Tennessee's 7th Congressional District. Marsha's public service is dedicated to promoting opportunities for women and making America a more prosperous place to live. Marsha's leadership philosophy is based on her experiences in the private sector as a small business woman and author, as well as being a mother and grandmother. Marsha went to college on a 4-H scholarship and worked her way through school selling books for the Southwestern Company as one of their first female sales associates, and later as one of their first female sales managers.

She then became Director of Retail Fashion and Special Events for the Castner Knott Company, which was a Nashville-based regional department store. Later, Marsha founded her own business, Marketing Strategies, which focused on the retail marketplace, as well as electronic and print media.

Marsha began her career in public service in 1995 when she was named executive director of the Tennessee Film, Entertainment, and Music Commission. In 1998, she was elected to the Tennessee State Senate. In the state legislature, she earned a reputation for fiscal responsibility and government accountability by identifying waste and offering realistic solutions to Tennessee's budget challenges.

While serving in the Tennessee Senate, Marsha led a statewide grassroots campaign to defeat a proposed state income tax. The tax was defeated, and Marsha's leadership earned her a reputation as an anti-tax champion. In 2014, the people of Tennessee passed an amendment to the state constitution to expressly prohibit a state income tax – a fitting cap to a 14-year battle.

In 2002, Marsha was elected to represent the people of Tennessee's 7th Congressional District based on her record in the state legislature. She brought her Tennessee values to Washington, DC, and became a leader in the fight for small, efficient federal government that is accountable to its citizens. As a Congressman, Marsha was often selected by her colleagues to lead the charge for principled conservatism. Her congressional career was also noted for her Chairmanship of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, as well as bipartisan expertise in defending songwriters' and performers' rights.

Marsha is a member of numerous charitable organizations and is an active member of her church, Christ Presbyterian. Marsha and her husband Chuck live in Williamson County, Tennessee. They have two children, Mary Morgan (Paul) Ketchel and Chad (Hillary) Blackburn, three grandsons, and a granddaughter. Originally from Laurel, Mississippi, Marsha is a graduate of Mississippi State University.

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# Speaker Bios



## CEO Speakers



### **Brad Southern**

#### **Chairman and CEO, LP Building Solutions**

*Forester as CEO: Lessons Learned on a Leadership Journey*

Brad Southern initially joined LP in 1999 and led the company's siding business from 2005 to 2015 before transitioning to leading the OSB business—a position he held until he was named Chief Operating Officer in 2016. On July 1, 2017, he became the fifth Chief Executive Officer in the company's history. In this position, he is responsible for all aspects of LP's business, operations, and governance. Also, in 2017, Brad was appointed as director, and on May 22, 2020, he became Chair of the board. He began his career with MacMillan Bloedel, where he held a variety of jobs in forestry, strategic planning, finance, accounting, and plant management. He earned a bachelor's and master's degree in Forest Resources from the University of Georgia.



### **Lee Ann Steigerwaldt**

#### **President and CEO, Steigerwaldt**

*Consulting Business Perspective on Forest and Land Management Changes*

Lee Steigerwaldt is CEO, President, and owner of Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc. Headquartered in the Midwest, Steigerwaldt was established in 1957 and is a third-generation and family-owned natural resources and real estate consulting company. Steigerwaldt is a value-driven company that currently employs 60 team members focused on high-quality service, relationships, and results for our clients and partners throughout the Lake States region and the United States. In her role as CEO, Lee leads and implements a strategic vision and fosters an environment of engagement, development, and a collaborative company culture.

Lee grew up working on a family Christmas tree farm and developed a love for all things outdoors, forestry, and arboriculture related. She is a twelve-time finisher of the Ironman Triathlon and is a believer in grit, tenacity, and consistency in business, organization, and personal achievement.

# Speaker Bios



## CEO Speakers



### **Derek Ratchford**

#### **CEO, SmartLam North America**

*SmartLam's US Operations and the Future of Cross-Laminated Timber/Mass Timber*

As CEO of Smartlam North America, Derek Ratchford leads a team of specialists who continually work to improve the mass timber industry through technological advances. Derek excels at building functional teams to manage operational processes so our people can succeed and projects meet budgets and timelines effectively. He inspires his team to trust their own judgment and make decisions that best suit the client's needs. For 30 years, Derek has thrived in the rapidly changing world of Engineered Wood Products. He began his career with Trus Joist MacMillan, working in the I-joist/LVL business. He spent 15 years working with Anthony Forest Products/Canfor, managing their I-Joist/Glulam operations and one sawmill. Derek served two years as Tolko's VP of U.S. Operations and has been CEO of Smartlam North America since 2021. His academic credentials and technical expertise in structural wood products, along with his enthusiasm for the mass timber building revolution, drive his desire to provide the best-engineered wood products in the U.S. He encourages his team to find quality mass timber solutions that are environmentally friendly, offer aesthetic benefits, and are structurally sound. Derek holds a B.S. in Forest Products from Clemson University and an M.S. in Wood Composites from the University of Idaho.

## Keynote Speaker



### **Curtis Dubay**

#### **Chief Economist, U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

*Time to Accept the Economy is Good- How Long Can It Last?*

Curtis Dubay is the Chief Economist at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He tracks the condition of the economy, analyzes the impact of public policy on economic growth, and runs the Chamber's Chief Economists Committee. Previously, he was senior economist at the American Bankers Association and a research fellow in tax and economic policy at The Heritage Foundation. He also worked at the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and at the Tax Foundation.

Dubay has frequently researched and published on a wide range of tax and economic issues. He is regularly quoted by the press and has appeared often in the media, including on CNBC, Fox Business, Fox News, and C-SPAN. He has testified before Congress several times and has been cited in newspapers such as The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, and Politico.

# Speaker Bios



## Committee Meetings



### **Les Werner**

**Director of Wisconsin Forestry Center, College of Natural Resources, UW Stevens Point**

*National Forest Operations Training Coalition: Inception and Next Steps*

Les is a Professor of Forestry and Director of the Wisconsin Forestry Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP). Dr. Werner has taught courses in functional tree biology and forest soils and is currently overseeing the development and implementation of an \$8 million workforce development grant focusing on Forest Operations and Primary Manufacturing. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Prior to his appointment at UWSP, Werner spent 21 years working as an independent logger, a risk control consultant for loggers and mill operators, and a commercial arborist.



## Delivering Now & Leading Next

We are taking action today to lead the transition to a low carbon, circular economy.

# Speaker Bios



## Committee Meetings



### **Rebecca Barnard**

**Forestry Certification Manager, Sappi North America**

*The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)*

As the Forestry Certification Manager for Sappi North America, Inc. (SNA), Rebecca manages Sappi's FSC®, SFI®, and PEFC Chain-of-Custody certificates, FSC Controlled Wood Certificate, and SFI Fiber Sourcing Certificate. Rebecca provides training, support, and strategic direction on certifications to Sappi staff and customers, domestically and globally. She also leads SNA's U.S. Lacey Act compliance and, more recently, SNA's strategic response to the new European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

Rebecca is an active member of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and has served in various state, regional, and national leadership positions, including chairing SAF's National Committee on Forest Policy from 2020 to 2021. Currently, Rebecca serves as SAF's national President for 2024. Rebecca also serves on the National Forest History Society Board of Directors.

Prior to Sappi, Rebecca served as the National Forestry Programs Manager for the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) from 2013-2017 and served on the Wisconsin NWTf State Chapter Board of Directors from 2022-2023. Rebecca also worked as the Forest Certification Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources from 2008-2013. Rebecca has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Ecosystem Restoration and Management from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and an MBA.



**Forestry is the management and sustainable processing of forests, woodlands, and timberlands.**

Astec's Peterson Horizontal Grinders reduce wood, low value logs, and other organic materials; the reduced material is used in the compost, mulch, and biomass energy markets. Astec's Peterson drum and disc chippers and de-barkers are used to produce wood chips for pulp and paper production as well as biomass energy markets. Peterson blower trucks and trailers are used to broadcast compost and mulch for landscaping and erosion control. Peterson machines are sold and supported through a worldwide network of distributors and direct sales and service representatives.

# Speaker Bios



## Committee Meetings



### **Jeff Widmer**

**Senior Business Consultant, Trimble**

*Tracking Wood from Harvest Site to the Mill: Meeting Geolocation Criteria for EUDR*

With nearly 40 years of experience in high-tech, Jeff brings a wealth of knowledge to the wood products industry. While attending the University of Minnesota, Jeff started his career with an industry-leading technology company that provided configure-price-quote (CPQ) solutions that interfaced with ERP solutions all around the world. Jeff continued with the company in various Account/Project Management/Sales roles as they transitioned from DOS and Windows to Web. The company experienced exceptional growth over ten years, going from 50 employees to over 500 employees and transitioning from private to public.

Jeff relocated to North Carolina and was instrumental in delivering a state-of-the-art cloud-based CPQ solution with Artificial Intelligence to a Fortune 500 company. Jeff then shifted into business consulting over the last 20+ years to be on the front line, providing innovative high-tech applications that enhance ERP solutions for wood product companies all over North America. Today, Jeff continues his focus on the delivery of best-in-class technology solutions that help drive productivity and overcome challenges within the wood products industry.



### **Haroon Syed**

**VP of Dedicated Services, Schneider**

*Changing the Narrative: Safety & Sustainability*

Haroon Syed is currently Vice President of Dedicated Services at Schneider, a premier provider of Truckload, Intermodal, and Logistics services. An executive with more than 30 years of supply chain experience, Syed is responsible for driving business results through Schneider's asset capabilities, Execution effectiveness, and Strategic planning while maintaining strong relationships with clients. Syed started his professional career at Schneider in 1993. He has held several leadership positions with increasing responsibility, including VP of Commercial Services, General Manager of Enterprise Accounts, and Director of Business Development. His international experience with Schneider includes assignments in Mexico and Europe, where he worked on special projects with global supply chain clients and implemented Schneider's technology infrastructure. Syed's strong connection to community is evident in his past and present Leadership accountabilities on non-profit boards. He currently chairs the Green Bay Boys and Girls Club Board, along with several strategy and governance committees that support youth wellness in Brown County.

# Speaker Bios



## Committee Meetings



### **Adam Smith**

**Wood Innovations Specialist , U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service**

*Wood Innovations Program: Impacts and Opportunities*

Adam Smith is a Program Specialist for the Wood Innovations program at the U.S. Forest Service for the National Headquarters Office. The Wood Innovations program works with industry and other partners to expand and create markets for wood products and wood energy that support long-term, sustainable management of National Forest System lands and other forest lands. As part of his role, Adam serves as the grant lead for the Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance program. Prior to joining the U.S. Forest Service, Adam spent 15 years with state forestry, leading technical and financial assistance programs for forestry, forest products, and wildland fire.

## Southcentral Region



### **Dr. Dale Greene**

**Retired Dean, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural  
Resources, University of Georgia**

*FRA & University Partnerships: Can the Timber Harvesting & Procurement Short  
Course Be a Model for Future Collaboration?*

W. Dale Greene served as Dean of the Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources from June 2015 to December 2023. He joined the faculty in 1986 and is known for his research and teaching that focused on improving the economic and environmental performance of the wood supply chain. Governor Sonny Perdue twice appointed him to the Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters. He has been active throughout his career in the Georgia Forestry Association and the Georgia Forestry Foundation. He served two terms on the Board of Trustees of the American Forest Foundation.

His recognitions include all three teaching awards from the Warnell School, the Outstanding Research Award from the Southeastern Society of American Foresters, and the Wise Owl Award from the Georgia Forestry Association. The Society of American Foresters named him to the Georgia Forester's Hall of Fame in 2007 and recognized him as a Fellow in 2022. Greene and his graduate students are three-time recipients of the National Technical Writing Award from the Forest Resources Association. In 2017, he was awarded the International Forest Engineering Achievement Award by the Council on Forest Engineering. Greene holds a Ph.D. from Auburn University. He received his B.S. from LSU and his M.S. from Virginia Tech. He and his wife Jeanna are forest landowners in Georgia and Arkansas.

# Speaker Bios



## Southcentral Region



### **Dr. Tom Gallagher**

**Emeritus Professor of Forest Operations, Auburn University**

*FRA & University Partnerships: Can the Timber Harvesting & Procurement Short Course Be a Model for Future Collaboration?*

Tom Gallagher was the Regions Bank Endowed Professor of Forest Operations. Tom completed his AAS at the New York State Ranger School, a B.S. from the University of Maine, and a Masters from Virginia Tech. His industry experience includes two years with Georgia-Pacific in Maine as a forest technician, then 14 years with Federal Paper Board and International Paper in North and South Carolina, buying wood and coordinating wood flow into a pulp mill and sawmill. He joined the faculty at Virginia Tech in 1998 and received his Ph.D. in 2003. He has been at Auburn since June 2003 as an Assistant, Associate, and then Professor of Forest Operations. His research involved biomass harvesting and transportation. Dr. Tom Gallagher is now retired.



### **Dr. Joe Conrad**

**Associate Professor of Forest Operations, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of Georgia**

*FRA & University Partnerships: Can the Timber Harvesting & Procurement Short Course Be a Model for Future Collaboration?*

Dr. Joe Conrad is an associate professor of forest operations in the Harley Langdale Jr. Center for Forest Business at the University of Georgia. Joe teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on topics such as timber harvesting, field measurements, and senior practicum. He conducts research on timber transportation safety and efficiency, timber harvesting productivity and cost, logging capacity, timber procurement, and wood supply chain efficiency. Joe earned a B.S. in forestry from The University of the South and an M.F. and Ph.D. in forest operations from Virginia Tech. Joe is a member of the Council on Forest Engineering, the Society of American Foresters, and the Georgia Forestry Association.

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# Speaker Bios



## Southcentral Region



### **Candace Dinwiddie**

**Executive Director, Tennessee Forestry Association**

*An Innovative Approach to Promote Logger Safety*

Candace Dinwiddie was raised in Portland, Tennessee, a community near the Kentucky state line north of Nashville. She grew up caring for shelter pets, the Grand Ole Opry on Saturday night, high school sports, and SEC games. Candace took a few classes at the Volunteer State Community College, then married and worked in her dad's small-town insurance agency. In 1987, she got the idea of finding a job in Nashville, about 30 miles south of Portland down I-65. A secretary temp agency sent Candace to the Tennessee Forestry Association (TFA), and she has been working at TFA since. After all these years, Candace still loves shelter pets, the Grand Ole Opry on Saturday nights, high school sports, and SEC games. Candace is very proud to be a Christian, an American, a Tennessean, and a part of the forestry community.



### **Heather Slayton**

**State Forester and Assistant Commissioner, Tennessee Division of Forestry**

*An Innovative Approach to Promote Logger Safety*

Heather Slayton is the 10th State Forester/Assistant Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry (TDA-DF). She is responsible for directing the activities of the Division of Forestry in state forest management, wildfire prevention and suppression, reforestation, landowner assistance programs, forest health initiatives, urban forestry programs, and forest inventory. Slayton began working at TDA-DF in 2012 as a forest health specialist and soon transitioned to the role of Forest Health and Sustainability Unit leader where she additionally administered all forest health, water quality, rural, and urban forest management programs. In 2018, Slayton was promoted to Assistant State Forester, where she oversaw the major administrative functions of the Division and provided executive leadership to the State Forest Unit, Reforestation Unit, Forest Health and Sustainability Unit, and the Forest Data and Analysis Unit. Prior to her state service, Slayton worked as a consulting forester in Virginia, North Carolina, and East Tennessee. Slayton was raised in Danville, Va., and earned a B.S. in Forestry from Virginia Tech and a M.S. in Forestry from the University of Tennessee. In her spare time, she enjoys golfing, boxing, road biking, hanging with her pups, and working on her 10-acre farm in Rutherford County.

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## CFE Credits

The FRA 2024 Annual Meeting, in conjunction with the 2024 Southcentral Region Spring Meeting has been approved for the following CFE Credits:

- 04/29 - 3.5 Cat.1 and 0.5 Cat. 2 credits
- 04/30 - 5 Cat.1 credits
- 05/01- 0.5 Cat.1 credits

CFE certificates will be provided at the meeting. Please remember to sign the attendance sheets.

## Looking Ahead - Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Attend



### **FRA 2024 Joint National and Western Region Fall Meeting**

**October 1 - October 3, 2024**

The Coeur d'Alene Resort  
Coeur d'Alene, ID



### **FRA 2025 Annual Meeting May 5 - May 7, 2025**

Hilton Sandestin Beach  
Golf Resort & Spa  
Miramar Beach, FL

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