

# Southern Hardwood Forestry Group Going Strong After 50 Years

by Brian Roy Lockhart, Steve Meadows, and Jeff Portwood



*Attendees at the first Southern Hardwood Forestry Group meeting held on September 27, 1951 in the loessial hill near Redwood, Mississippi, ten miles north of Vicksburg.*

On November 15, 2001, the Southern Hardwood Forestry Group (referred to as the Group) met at the U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station's Southern Hardwoods Laboratory in Stoneville, Mississippi to celebrate the Group's 50th anniversary. About 130 members and guests attended to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Group and to honor its charter members. Three charter members from the original 71, E. C. Burkhardt, Wirt Bond, and Charles Crowther, all from Vicksburg, MS were able to attend and were given special recognition for their efforts in promoting hardwood forest management for half a century.

The purpose of the Group, according to its Constitution, is to "provide a medium for exchange of ideas on the management and utilization of hardwood timber for all those actively engaged in this pursuit within the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee, as well as for other individuals who express a genuine interest in hardwood timber management and utilization." This

purpose has expanded through the years to include wildlife habitat management and other ecological values.

Seventy-one individuals paid dues by the first meeting and were labeled Charter Members. Fifty-four charter members were affiliated with forest products companies, seven with federal agencies - primarily the U.S. Forest Service Southern Hardwoods Laboratory, six with state agencies, two private forest landowners, and one each from forestry consultants and academia. Thirty-six charter members were from Mississippi, 17 from Arkansas, and nine each from Louisiana and Tennessee. By the 50th-anniversary meeting, there were 335 members primary from Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Alabama, with another handful of members from Tennessee, Texas, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, and Washington.

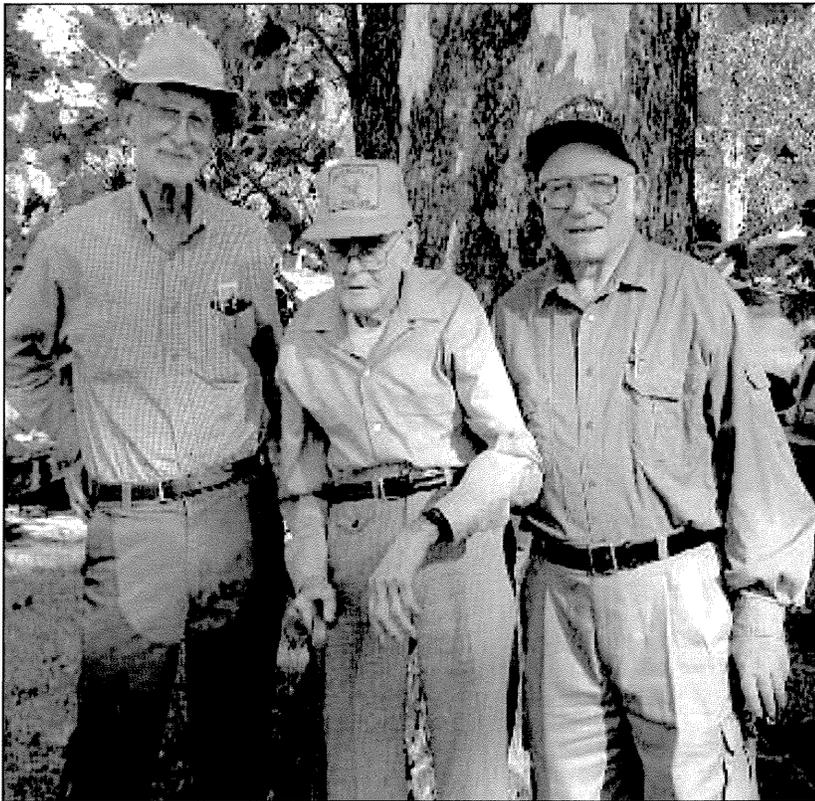
Officer positions within the Group, as defined in the organization bylaws, have remained the same over the past

# WILDLIFE AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT

fifty years with a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer. Individuals that have occupied these positions represent the who's-who of southern hardwood forestry and are listed below.

The Southern Hardwood Forestry Group historically meets twice per year, once in the Spring and again in the Fall. During the meeting, topics are usually centered on the silviculture and management of hardwoods, usually bottomland hardwoods, early meetings also included "Duroc" hogs, levee building, river action, pastures, community development, riverboats, fishing, hunting, and general recreation, wild rice, and erosion. Discussion focusing on wildlife and wildlife habitat provide lively discussions as hosts and group members try to balance wildlife habitat objectives with timber management realities. More recent meetings have focused primarily on the hardwood resource itself, especially afforestation of previously farmed sites in the Mississippi Alluvial Plain, regeneration of hardwoods on difficult sites, and thinning of hardwood stands. Guests are always welcomed in efforts to stimulate an increase in the management of the hardwood resource.

The Southern Hardwood Forestry Group continues to serve as an important outlet for the dissemination of hardwood research and management information. To quote Sid McKnight, former Director of the U.S. Forest Service's Southern Hardwoods Laboratory: "Just imagine having a group ... waiting for your results. It's a pipeline for instant research-into-practice. Everytime we met (no formal meeting, only field tours) we had new information to impart - information they could use the next day." The spirit of hardwood management that was first instilled into the Group by John A. Putnam ("Mr. Hardwoods") is still alive and well today. 



*E.C. Burkhardt, Wirt Bond, and Charles Crowther, charter members of the Southern Hardwood Forestry Group, at the 50th anniversary.*

## Chairman

John A. Putnam	1951-1963
J. S. McKnight	1963-1970
L. C. White	1970-1973
Pat Weber	1973-1976
C. A. Bozeman	1976-1977
Robert C. Horton	1977-1980
E. C. Burkhardt	1980-1989
Lavelle Prewitt	1989-1993
Sam Hobart	1993-1998
John Hodges	1998-2002
C. Jeff Portwood	2002-2004
Brian Roy Lockhart	2004-present

## Vice-Chairman

W. E. Hauser	1951-1953
W. W. Dannenberg	1953-1954
Hal Moore	1954-1963
J. S. McWilliams	1963-1968
L. C. White	1968-1970
Pat Weber	1970-1973
Frank W. Shropshire	1973-1976
Robert C. Horton	1976-1977
Robert L. Johnson	1977-1981
Lavelle Prewitt	1981-1989
Sam Hobart	1989-1993
Mark Monroe	1993-1998
C. Jeff Portwood	1998-2002
Brian Roy Lockhart	2002-2004
Norman Davis	2004-present

## Secretary-Treasurer

J. S. McKnight	1951-1963
Robert L. Johnson	1963-1967
Frank W. Shropshire	1967-1973
Harvey E. Kennedy, Jr	1973-1976
Bob Blackmon	1976-1981
Robert L. Johnson	1981-1987
Harvey E. Kennedy, Jr	1987-1990
Steve Meadows	1990-present

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