

## Bottomland Hardwoods Learning Exchange

*A Field-Based Forum with Experts and Practitioners Across the South*

**Date:** November 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Location:** Brunswick, GA

Southeastern bottomland hardwood forests provision critically important, and highly valued, ecosystem services including biodiversity, flood protection, carbon storage, recreation, and clean/clear water. Land conversion, ditching, heavy bedding/furrowing, development, fragmentation, and narrowly-focused forest management threaten their ability to sustain flows of such integral ecosystem services long-term. Responsible forest management of bottomland forests can be done in ways that maintain or enhance their ecological integrity and stability, while simultaneously generating income and provisioning the supply of wood products.

In the Atlantic Coastal Plain (ACP), clearcut harvests are commonly used to regenerate stands due to the autoecology of desired species, the flooding regime of the coastal plain, and limited availability of harvesting equipment that is economically feasible to operate in wet forest stands. In the lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV), intermediate treatments (e.g. thinning) and selection system silviculture (e.g. group selection) are more common and economically attractive than in the ACP. This is partially due to differences in the silvics of tree species, increased value on forest structure and wildlife, and the availability of different harvesting equipment.

This field-based learning exchange will bring together experts from the ACP and MAV to compare these two geographies based on social, ecological, and economic factors. An emphasis will be placed on the connection between forestry and hydrology, and how multiple-use, ecological forest management can play an integral role in hydrologic restoration and conserving the whole system on a watershed-level. Through this event we hope to improve the management and conservation of bottomland forests and illustrate opportunities to meet diverse social values.

**Event Agenda:**

Wednesday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

12:30pm: Registration begins (Location TBD)

1:00pm: Welcome to the event, Guild activities across the Southeast, and agenda overview- Nick Biemiller (Southeast Regional Coordinator- Forest Stewards Guild)

1:15pm: Ecological forestry and bottomland hardwoods across the South- Amanda Mahaffey (Northeast Director- Forest Stewards Guild)

*Panel Session I, Bottomland hardwoods and hydrology/water issues-* moderated by Amanda Mahaffey (Northeast Regional Director- Forest Stewards Guild)

*2:00pm:* Dr. William Conner (Professor and Assistant Director, Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science- Clemson University)

*2:20pm:* Dr. John Paul Schmidt (Assistant Research Scientist- University of Georgia)

*2:40pm:* Gordon Rogers (Riverkeeper and Executive Director- Flint Riverkeepers)

*3:00pm:* Moderated discussion and questions

3:30pm: Brief break

*Panel Session II: Forest management, ecology, and silviculture-* moderated by Nick Biemiller (Southeast Regional Coordinator, Forest Stewards Guild)

*3:45pm:* Tim Evans (Forest Technical Services Administrator- Anderson-Tully Lumber Company)

*4:05pm:* Chuck Hunter (Chief, Division of Strategic Resource Management, Regional Refuge Biologist- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

*4:25pm:* Jeff Denman (Owner, Consulting Forester- Denman CO)

*4:45pm:* Moderated discussion and questions

5:15pm: Indoor session adjourned

6:30pm: Dinner and networking social (Location TBD)

Forestry: Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

8:00am: Meet and head to field sites

9:00am- 5:00pm: Visit field sites to be determined

5:00pm: Return from field

Hydrology: Friday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

8:00am: Meet and head to field sites

9:00am- 4:00pm: Visit field sites to be determined

4:00pm: Return from field, final remarks, event adjourned