



SOUTHERN GROUP OF STATE FORESTERS ANNUAL MEETING  
Biloxi, MS  
June 2 – 5, 2025

Urban and Community Forestry Committee AGENDA

Monday (June 2)

- 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. SGSF Executive Committee meeting
- 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Registration Opens
- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Opening Reception

Tuesday (June 3)

- 6:45 – 7:45 a.m. Breakfast for all attendees
- 7:00 – 10:00 a.m. Registration/Info desk open
- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Opening Ceremony/Welcome to MS
- 8:30 - 12:00 p.m. **General Session** - Moderator – TBD  
(General Assembly of all Registered)
- 9:45 – 10:15 Break
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Opening Lunch / Partners Lunch

**Morning Session Note Taker: Pending**

- 1:00 – 1:15 p.m. Welcome and introductions – Todd Little (FL) and Alex Ballard (MS)
- 1:15 – 2:00 p.m. Urban and Community Forestry – Federal Program Update  
Annie Hermansen-Baez, Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager, Region 8
- 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Federal Funding Discussion – Adapting to Recent Changes  
**Group Discussion**
- 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Forest Assessment Strike Team (FAST) discussion and opportunities for collaboration with  
Forest Health Committee  
**Group Discussion with Forest Health Committee**
- 3:30-4:00 p.m. Break

4:00-5:00 p.m. Forest Assessment Strike Team (FAST) discussion and opportunities for collaboration with Forest Health Committee

**Group Discussion with Forest Health Committee**

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Dinner**—Host State Dinner at Ground Zero Blues Club; transportation provided: Hotel main entrance; buses leave at 5:30, 5:45, and 6:00. Return trips begin at 8:50 pm.

Wednesday (June 4)

6:45 – 7:45 a.m. Breakfast for all attendees

Morning Session Note Taker: Pending

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Mid-Year Report and State Forester Feedback – Todd Little (FL)  
SGSF Implementation Plan and Action Items Discussion – UCF Committee

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. Subcommittee breakout work  
(Representatives from partner SGSF committees welcomed to attend.)

Community & Partner Engagement (CAPE) – Chris Cooper (LA)

Resource Assessment & Management (RAM) – Lara Johnson (VA) and Mac Martin (TX)

Protection (PRO) – Seth Hawkins (GA)

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. State Forester Liaisons meet with committees. Subcommittees to report on ongoing projects and upcoming goals.

Community & Partner Engagement (CAPE) – Chris Cooper (LA)

Resource Assessment & Management (RAM) – Lara Johnson (VA) and Mac Martin (TX)

Protection (PRO) – Seth Hawkins (GA)

12:00 – 1:20 p.m. Awards Luncheon

Afternoon Session Note Taker: Pending

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Implementation of the new National Champion Tree Program

**Group Discussion**

2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Restore funding implementation and discussion.

**Alex Ballard**

- 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Break
- 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Continued discussion on Restore funding.  
**Alex Ballard/Group Discussion**
- 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. NASF Update  
**Keith Wood**
- 6:00 – until **Dinner on your own: Wildland Warehouse and Mercedes Textiles are hosting a dinner meet and greet at the MS Maritime Museum from 6-9 pm. Dinner and a tour of the museum are provided. Transportation is not provided.**

Thursday (June 5)

- 6:45 – 7:45 a.m. Breakfast for all attendees
- Morning Session Note Taker: Pending
- 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Subcommittee Reports, Action Items, & LSR Discussion – UCF Committee
- 9-9:30 Partner Presentation -- Cambium Carbon
- 9:30-10 Partner Presentation -- American Forests
- 10-10:30 Partner Presentation – Arbor Day Foundation
- 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. break
- 10:45 a.m. -- 12 p.m. Install new committee chair, parking lot issues, and wrap up.
- 12:00 p.m. ADJOURNMENT of meeting

Minutes Chair: Pending – Note takers submit session minutes to (TBD) for compilation.