

Speaker



Nathan McClure currently leads the Georgia Forestry Commission's Forest Utilization, Marketing, and Development program. Nathan has worked in a variety of positions over the past 25 years with the Commission. He is a Georgia Registered Forester and a Society of American Foresters Certified Forester. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science in Forest Resources Management. Nathan's recent assignment includes the challenge of creating additional values from Georgia's forests through marketing and new product development; including facilitating the development of a forest bioenergy industry, initiating Georgia's new carbon sequestration registry, as well as working with traditional forest products industries.

Panel



Zander Evans - The Forest Guild promotes ecologically, economically, and socially responsible forestry as a means of sustaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities dependent upon them. As Research Director at the Forest Guild, Dr. Zander Evans directs and conducts research that supports on-the-ground implementation of ecological forestry by Guild members across the country. Research at the Guild is a complement to Guild forester's in-depth, place based experience with the land. Zander's current research includes studies on sustainable biomass removal and the carbon impacts of forest management. Zander's past research includes the impact of an invasive insect, the hemlock woolly adelgid, on eastern forests and an investigation of factors that influence wind storm impacts on forests. He received his PhD for the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies after working as a cartographer and spatial analyst with the US Geological Survey.



Jay Farrell is Executive Director of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF). He directs the business operations and policy initiatives for NASF, a non-profit organization based in Washington, DC that represents the directors of forestry agencies from the fifty states, eight U.S. territories and associated states, and the District of Columbia. Prior to joining NASF, Farrell managed forest certification outreach through 37 state and provincial SFI[®] Implementation Committees (SICs) for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative[®] (SFI) program. He also worked as a forest policy specialist with the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), as a forester with Westvaco Corporation (now MeadWestvaco), and as corporate Material Acquisition Manager for American Wood Fibers, Inc. Farrell began his career as a forestry intern and seasonal firefighter with the USDA Forest Service in Utah. He holds a bachelor's degree in Forest Resources Management from West Virginia University and a master's degree in business administration from Averett University.



Erica Rhodes is the Society of American Foresters (SAF) director of forest policy. In this position Rhoad is responsible for assessing forest management and natural resources issues, and developing policies and strategies that promote the mission and goals of the Society. Among her duties are serving as a liaison between SAF and members of Congress, federal natural resources agencies, national and international conservation and environmental organizations, the forest products industry, and other professional natural resources associations. Before coming to SAF, Rhoad was government affairs advisor at Ball Janik, LLP in Washington, DC, from 2007 to 2008, where she represented clients in the fields of forestry, natural resources, and wildlife. From 2002 to 2007 she served as a member of the legislative staff of the House Natural Resources Forests and Forest Health Subcommittee, where she worked on the Healthy Forest Restoration Act and several other forestry-related bills and laws. She also served on the staffs of congressional members from Colorado and California.



Robert S. Simpson is Senior Vice President -- American Forest Foundation, Center for Family Forests. He was elected to that position in January 2004 after ten years as Vice President and Director, American Tree Farm System. His responsibilities at AFF include developing long-term forestry program visions, strategic planning and elevating AFF's forestry program profiles both domestically and internationally. Prior to joining AFF, Mr. Simpson enjoyed a 16-year career as a procurement and land management forester. From 1984 to 1994, he was employed with Chesapeake Corporation, located in Richmond, Virginia. Simpson acted as coordinator for Chesapeake's landowner assistance program and external communication program. From 1979 to 1983, Simpson worked for Champion International, Timberlands Division, in Missoula, Montana. While there he worked as District Forester and helped manage the company's 600,000-acre regional ownership. Currently, Mr. Simpson is elected to the Board of Directors for the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Systems (PEFC) and is co-founder and chairman of the International Family Forestry Alliance, an organization of 22 countries in Europe and North America working to develop information and policies regarding family forest ownership and its value to the global community. Simpson received his BS in Forest Resource Management in 1979 from Virginia Tech's College of Forestry and Wildlife. AFF is an independent 501c3 foundation dedicated to improving the active stewardship of America's natural resources through education and landowner outreach.



David P. Tenny is the president and CEO of the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO). Tenny came to NAFO from the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA), where he served as vice president for forestry and wood products from March 2007 to May 2008. Prior to his service at AF&PA, Tenny served for six years as deputy undersecretary for natural resources at the United States Department of Agriculture. Tenny came to USDA from the Committee on Agriculture in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served as Counsel and Policy Advisor on natural resources and related issues from January 1997 to January 2001. He served as Counsel for U.S. Representative Wally Herger of California from January 1995 to January 1997.

A native of Boise, Idaho, Tenny earned a bachelor's degree in American studies from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and a law degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He is married with three children.