

Reforming Government Policy to Preserve Working Landscapes

A Policy-Oriented, Idea-Generating Conference

February 2, 2007

Located at

The University of Georgia's Atlanta Alumni Center

(3333 Peachtree Street in the Atlanta Financial Center, South Tower, Second Floor)

9:30 am through 5 pm

This conference will bring together university and government scientists, land owners, conservation groups, farm and forestry industry representatives, and federal, local and state policy makers to discuss, analyze, and brainstorm on topics related to the interaction of land use and government policies. Additionally, the conference should provide greater understanding of the primary challenges to sustaining working landscapes, and produce constructive ideas for new or modified state and federal policies that would help to sustain working farms and forests as part of the Georgia landscape in the future. Consensus among attendees on the best ideas and most profitable policy changes to pursue should serve to convince policy makers that those ideas are worth considering. Priorities and consensus ideas that emerge from the conference will be relayed to state legislators for their consideration and study as possible future legislative ideas.

Sponsored by:

LAND USE

Studies Initiative

WARNELL

School of Forestry & Natural Resources

Richard Russell Foundation



College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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Conference Agenda
February 2, 2007
UGA Alumni Center, Atlanta

- 9:30 am** **Welcome and introductions**
- 9:45 am** **Economic/Environmental/Social Benefits of Working Landscapes**
Speaker: **Liz Kramer**, Director of Natural Resource Spatial Analysis Laboratory, & Co-Director of the Land Use Studies Initiative
- Panelists:** **Robert Farris**, Interim Director of the Georgia Forestry Commission
 Ross King, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, Deputy Director
 Mike Harris, Chief of Nongame Conservation Section (Wildlife Resources Division) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- 11:30 am** **Lunch**
 Jody Strickland, Tolleson Land Investment Properties, LLC.
- 1:00 pm** **Tax and Appraisal Issues**
Speakers: **Jeffrey Dorfman**, Co-Director of the Land Use Studies Initiative
 David Newman, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Warnell School of Forest & Natural Resources
- Panelists:** **Greg Reese**: Georgia Department of Revenue
 Michele NeSmith: Director of Research, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia
 John Graham: Chair of Warren County Commissioner's
- 2:30 pm** **Break**
- 2:45 pm** **Tools and Incentives**
Speaker: **Gerry Cohn**: American Farmland Trust, Southeast Director
- Panelists:** **Jim Langford**: Director of the Trust for Public Land
 Bill Hodge: UGA County Extension Agent
 Curt Soper: Director of the Georgia Land Conservation Program
- 4:15 pm** **Break**
- 4:30 pm** **Summary and Future Direction**
 James Vaseff: Georgia Power, Community & Economic Development

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Attendees:

University of Georgia:

1. Jeffrey Dorfman, Co-Director Land Use Studies Initiative
2. John Bergstrom, Russell Foundation
3. David Newman, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, WSFR
4. Bob Izlar, Director, Center of Forest Business, WSFR
5. Liz Kramer, Co-Director Land Use Studies Initiative
6. James Kundell, Director, Carl Vinson Institute of Government
7. Bill Hodge, Public Service Associate / County Extension Agent
8. Bethany Lavigno, Land Use Studies Initiative

Legislative:

9. Senator Ross Tolleson, Chair of Senate Natural Resource Committee
10. Senator John Bulloch, Chair of Senate Agricultural Committee
11. Representative Richard Royal
12. Representative Lynn Smith, Chair of House Natural Resource Committee
13. Terry Johnson, Warren County Commissioner
14. John Graham, Warren County Commission Chair
15. Melvin Davis, Oconee County Commission Chair
16. Emily Watson, Honorable Jack Kingston, District Representative / Agricultural Liaison

Federal, State & Local Agencies:

17. Bob Farris, Georgia Forestry Commission, Interim Director
18. Steve McWilliams, Georgia Forestry Association, Director
19. Bart Graham, Georgia Department of Revenue, Commissioner
20. Sha Hester, Georgia Department of Revenue, Director of Property Tax Division
21. Greg Reese, Georgia Department of Revenue
22. Mike Harris, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Chief of Nongame Section
23. Ross King, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, Deputy Director
24. Michele NeSmith, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, Research Director
25. John Greene, United States' Forest Service
26. Brent Dykes, Georgia Soil & Water Conservation, Acting Director
27. Curt Soper, Georgia Land Conservation Program, Director
28. Ken Stewart, Georgia Department of Economic Development, Commissioner

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Attendees, continued:

Non-Profits:

29. James (Jim) Langford, Trust for Public Land, Director
30. Angelou Ezeilo, Trust for Public Land, Project Manager
31. James (Jim) Stokes, The Georgia Conservancy, Director
32. Jill Johnson, The Georgia Conservancy, Land Conservation Program Manager
33. Gerry Cohn, American Farmland Trust, Southeast Director
34. Rex Boner, Conservation Fund, Vice-President & Southeastern Representative
35. Kevin McGorty, Tall Timbers Land Conservancy, Director

Businesses:

36. Donald Childs, Georgia Farm Bureau, 1st Vice-President
37. Gary Black, Georgia Agribusiness Council, President
38. Dennis Taylor, Plum Creek Timber Company, Senior Manager for Property Tax
39. Steve Loveland, Georgia Pacific, Director of Sustainable Forest Strategies
40. Marshall Thomas, F & W Forestry Services, President
41. James (Jim) Vaseff, Georgia Power, Community & Economic Development
42. Jody Strickland, Tolleson Land Investment Properties LLC
43. Zeke R. Lambert III, Lake Oconee Community Bank, Vice-President
44. Keith Hatcher, Association of Georgia Realtors, Senior Political Consultant

Private Landowners/Citizens

45. Asa Phillips: Hart County land owner
46. J. Wesley Langdale III: President Langdale Industries & The Georgia Conservancy Board
47. Andres Villegas: Langdale Industries
48. Bill Jones: President Sea Island Corp.
49. Cader B. Cox III: Georgia DNR Board Secretary & Southwest Georgia plantation owner
50. Terrell Hudson, land owner