

Teachers Conservation Workshop: Bringing The Outdoors Into The Classroom

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Purpose

Teacher's Conservation Workshops (TCWs) are intensive, week-long workshops designed to give schoolteachers hands-on, outdoor experience in all aspects of forestry and conservation. Two to three workshops are held each summer, one in northern MS, one in southern MS, and a smaller, commuter workshop in central MS. Each of the main workshops consists of over 50 direct contact hours of instruction over six days, with emphasis on outdoor activities. The commuter workshop has half that. The TCWs are open to any K-12 schoolteacher. The workshop satisfies continuing education requirements for teachers and can be taken as a 3-hour course for undergraduates and graduate students through Mississippi State University. Many Extension Agents have taken the workshop for graduate credit.

The TCWs were created by, and are organized through, the Mississippi Forestry Association (MFA), a non-profit membership organization working to promote forestry in Mississippi. MFA has been conducting the TCWs each summer for over 50 years. The instruction topics and workshop administration are conducted by personnel from Mississippi State University Extension Service, forest industry, state and federal agencies, consulting foresters, and other natural resource professionals.

Participants of the TCWs receive instruction in all aspects of forestry and conservation. The workshop spends as much time as possible outdoors, with field trips to national forests, state parks, forest industry lands, wood processing mills, seedling nurseries, and non-industrial forest land. In addition, teachers receive Project Learning Tree resources and training.

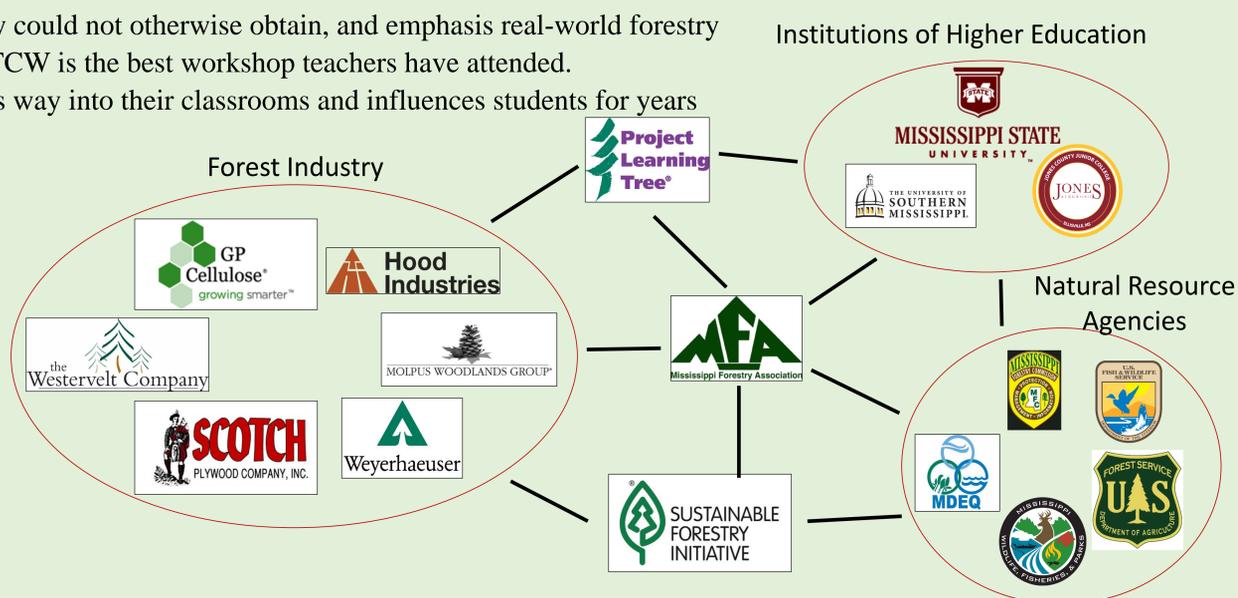
TCW provides educators an experience they could not otherwise obtain, and emphasis real-world forestry practices. Surveys routinely indicate that TCW is the best workshop teachers have attended. Information received at the TCWs makes its way into their classrooms and influences students for years to come.



Hands On Tree Planting



Wildlife Biologists Teaching Bird Habitat



Monday, June 20		Wear your name tag every day!
7:00	BREAKFAST (Student Center Cafeteria)	
7:30	Wood Magic (Rm #217)	Butch Bailey, MSU-ES
8:30	Forest Ecology & Management (Rm #217)	Dr. Glenn Hughes, MSU-ES
9:30	Sustainable Forestry: SFI, FSC, Tree Farm (Rm #217)	Angela Holland, Weyerhaeuser
10:15	BREAK (15 min)	
10:30	Depart from Student Center parking lot for Molpus Timberlands	
10:45	Harvesting/Logging Operation (Site TBD)	Angela Holland, Weyerhaeuser Co.
11:45	LUNCH (Molpus Timberlands)	Sponsored by Molpus Timberlands
12:15	History of Tatum Sawmill & TIMOs (Molpus Timberlands)	Ken Sewell, Molpus Timberlands
1:15	Forest Inventory Exercise (Molpus Timberlands)	Ruth Cook, Brice Young, & Shane Lee, Molpus Timberlands
3:15	BREAK (15 min)	
3:30	Depart for return to JCJC	
4:15	Watersheds, Trees, & Water Quality (Rm 217)	Janet Chapman, MS DEQ
5:15	PLT Activity #44 – Water Wonders	Baxter Rowley, MFC
6:00	Turning Trees Into Paper (Rm #217)	Jeff Daniels, GP Cellulose
7:00	DINNER (Rm #217)	Sponsored by GP Cellulose
7:30	PLT Activity #93 & 51 – Paper Civilizations & Paper Making (Rm #217)	Butch Bailey
8:30	Adjourn for the day	

Typical Daily Agenda



Wild Plant Identification



Timber Measurement



Project Learning Tree Activity



Wildlife Biology



Urban Forestry



Timber Harvesting



Ecology and Land Management



Forest Products Industry

Results

- TCW has been “bringing the outdoors into the classroom” for over 60 years.
- Over 100 individual workshops have been conducted in Mississippi over those years.
- Over 2,000 teachers have attended TCW. These teachers represent grade levels K-12, as well as Junior/Community College.
- TCW is also taken for 3 hours of undergraduate or graduate credit for education majors at Mississippi State University.
- TCW has a 90% plus overall satisfaction rating (5-year average) by participating teachers according to post-workshop evaluations.
- TCW has an 83% in-classroom use rate (5-year average) for material provided according to teacher surveys.