

**To:** Greenwalt, Sarah[greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Hupp, Sydney[hupp.sydney@epa.gov]; Earl Barrs[ebarrs@duesouthinvestments.com]; Dave Tenny[dtenny@nafoalliance.org]; andres@gfagrow.org[andres@gfagrow.org]  
**From:** Wanda Barrs  
**Sent:** Tue 4/11/2017 6:24:14 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Wanda and Earl Barrs Follow-up NAFO Meeting 4.5.17  
[Kindergarten agenda 2017 Draft.doc](#)  
[5th Grade agenda 2017 DRAFT.doc](#)  
[The Teacher Conservation Workshop 2016 Report.pdf](#)

Sara and Sydney,

Please find dates, draft agendas and other details regarding opportunity for Administrator Pruitt visit to Gully Branch Tree Farm, Cochran, GA. Depending on what Administrator Pruitt would like to see, any of these events are open to him and team. Our goal with student and adult visits to Gully Branch is to ensure individuals connect working forests, water, air, wildlife and recreation. With well managed sustainable working forests we ensure all these components work together and want others to see the possibilities using sound science. Our events include facilitators from UGA extension, NRCS representatives, Georgia Forestry Commission staff, DNR leaders and educators whenever possible.

Three events are available:

Wednesday, May 3rd, 5th grade (180 students/9 teachers/9 chaperones/15 facilitators)

Monday, May 8th, Kindergarten (184 students/26 teachers/15 facilitators)

Tuesday, June 20th, Teacher Conservation Workshop (30 educators statewide/10 facilitators)\*\* Group will visit Gully Branch 1:00 - 7:00 on this date.

\*\*GA Teacher Conservation Workshop- Each year GA Forestry Foundation, GA Forestry Association, GA Forestry Commission, GA Dept. of Natural Resources and UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources partner to provide a week long training in Project Wet, Project Wild and Project Learning Tree. Thirty educators are selected from around the state and participate in daily field trips along with indoor and outdoor classroom hands-on training. See report attached.

Thank you for your review. Earl and I look forward to your feedback regarding joining us at Gully Branch.

Best regards,  
Wanda Barrs  
478.697.0035  
465 Ruth Church Road  
Cochran, GA 31014

Wanda Barrs  
Due South Investments

-----Original Message-----

From: Greenwalt, Sarah [mailto:greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 8:02 PM  
To: Wanda Barrs  
Cc: Hupp, Sydney  
Subject: RE: Wanda and Earl Barrs Follow-up NAFO Meeting 4.5.17

Mr. and Mrs. Barrs,

Thank you for your email. It was such a pleasure to host you all today. I have forwarded your email on to

our scheduling team to see if we can set something up.

I look forward to continuing to work with your team on wotus and many other issues in the coming months.

Best,

Sarah A. Greenwalt  
Senior Advisor to the Administrator  
for Water and Cross-Cutting Issues

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Work: 202-564-1722|Cell: 202-816-1388  
Greenwalt.Sarah@epa.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Wanda Barrs [mailto:wbarrs@duesouthinvestments.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 6:19 PM  
To: Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>  
Cc: Earl Barrs <ebarrs@duesouthinvestments.com>; Dave Tenny <dtenny@nafoalliance.org>  
Subject: Wanda and Earl Barrs Follow-up NAFO Meeting 4.5.17

Ms. Greenwalt,

It was a pleasure to participate in the NAFO meeting today with Administrator Pruitt and your team. As mentioned Earl and I are tree farmers in GA and across the southeast. Our home tree farm is Gully Branch Tree Farm in Cochran, Bleckley county, GA.

We have hosted students and adults for 22 years attempting to ensure the public connects tree farming and the environment as natural partners. Project Learning Tree is the primary curriculum which uses the forest as a window to discuss clean air, water and products which continually improve our quality of life.

Please feel free to google Gully Branch Tree Farm. Earl and I would be honored to work with your team to provide a hands-on view of this extension of our work. Over the next few days, I will share dates we are scheduled to host students and teachers for field experiences. Of course, we are happy to arrange any opportunity which provide insights.

Gov. Perdue and Mary have visited on numerous occasions and can share their thoughts as well.

Thank you for considering this opportunity.

Best regards,  
Wanda Barrs (478.697.0035)  
Earl Barrs (478.957.2420)

Sent from my iPhone

**Fifth Grade  
Gully Branch Tree Farm  
Friday, May 3, 2017**

| <b>Activities</b>  | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>8:30-9:00</b>   | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> |
| <b>9:05-9:35</b>   | <b>E</b> | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> |
| <b>9:40-10:10</b>  | <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> |
| <b>10:15-10:45</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> |
| <b>10:50-11:20</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>A</b> |

**LOAD BUSES TO RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR LUNCH**

| <b>Activity #</b> | <b>Title</b>             | <b>Location</b>               | <b>Facilitators</b>  |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>1</b>          | <b>Wagon ride</b>        | <b>Load at Barn</b>           | <b>Lynn Hancock/ David Brown<br/>GA Forestry Commission</b>          |
| <b>2</b>          | <b>Oh Deer!</b>          | <b>Open Area before Lake</b>  | <b>Elaine Bates/ Need Assistant<br/>Retired Educator/Retired GFC</b> |
| <b>3</b>          | <b>Renewable or Not?</b> | <b>Picnic Tables</b>          | <b>Kevin Malone/Wanda Barrs<br/>Rayioner Advanced Materials</b>      |
| <b>4</b>          | <b>TBD</b>               | <b>Traffic Circle</b>         | <b>Kaylin Dykes/Macy Smith<br/>Bleckley Co. Extension</b>            |
| <b>5</b>          | <b>Fire</b>              | <b>Woods in front of barn</b> | <b>Mark Wiles/ Chris Mullis<br/>GA Forestry Commission</b>           |

**Wagon Driver: Lynn Hancock**

**Bleckley County Kindergarten  
May 8, 2017  
Gully Branch Tree Farm**

| <b>Activities</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b>           | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b>           | <b>5</b>           | <b>6</b> |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|
| 9:00-9:30         | A        | B                  | C        | D                  | E                  | F        |
| 9:35-10:05        | F        | A                  | B        | C                  | D                  | E        |
| 10:10-10:40       | E        | F                  | A        | B                  | C                  | D        |
| 10:45-11:15       | D        | E                  | F        | A                  | B                  | C        |
| 11:20-11:55       | C        | D                  | E        | F                  | Lunch (Groups A,B) |          |
| 12:00-12:35       |          | C                  | D        | Lunch (Groups E,F) |                    | B        |
| 12:40-1:15        | B        | Lunch (Groups C,D) |          | E                  | F                  | A        |

**Load Buses**

**Activities #1 and #4 are nearest the portable toilets FYI  
OF COURSE STUDENTS/ADULTS MAY USE FACILITIES AT ANYTIME NECESSARY!**

**Last group should return to school not later than 1:45**

Student groups are denoted by letters A-F. Groups should be assigned before teachers leave school. **Please make copies of this schedule and ask teachers to bring with them to Gully Branch.**

| <b>Activity #</b>       | <b>Location</b>             | <b>Leaders</b>                            |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 Wagon ride            | Barn                        | Lynn Hancock/David Brown                  |
| 2 Every Tree For Itself | Wooded area/traffic circle  | Wanda Barrs/Teresa Jones/Charlotte Pipkin |
| 3 Litter/Birdseed Relay | Open area before lake       | Cay Dykes/Maureen Stoy/Cheryl Rhodes      |
| 4 Birds and Worms       | Wooded area behind pavilion | Elaine Bates/Judy Sanders                 |
| 5 We All Need Trees     | Picnic Tables Lakeside      | Kevin Malone/Bob Lazenby                  |
| 6 Dress A Beaver        | Dock                        | Rhonda Joiner/Helen Churchwell            |

Gully Branch Manager- Lynn Hancock 478.308.1445  
Coordinator- Wanda Barrs 478.697.0035  
Smokey Bear – Georgia Forestry Commission, David Brown and Team

**Total 17 facilitators**

# The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Teacher Conservation Workshop

By Chelsea York

The Georgia Teacher Conservation Workshop (TCW), June 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> of 2016, was host to thirty teachers from sixteen different counties from across Georgia. 2016 was the first year since 2012 that the workshop has seen maximum capacity. Teachers that attended the workshop had an opportunity to take part in different activities and site visits.



*Table Set-up*

Day 1: Monday, teachers began arriving around noon. Tables were arranged with books, safety equipment, and other resources for teachers to use during and keep at the end of the workshop. Rusty Garrison, Program Manager at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, welcomed the teachers and reviewed basic logistics of Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center and the upcoming week. Carla Rapp, Director of Forestry Education, Georgia Forestry Association (GFA) and Project Learning Tree Co-coordinator,



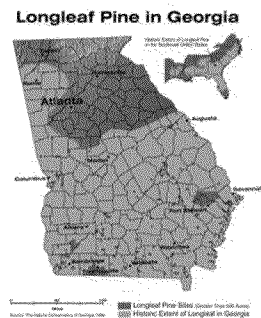
*Sum of Parts, Facilitated by Tammy Hyder of East Coweta Middle School, TCW 2009 Grad.*

followed with an introduction of the TCW committee. Teachers participated in their first Project WILD Icebreaker activity, “Are you me?” where teachers were given an animal tag on their back and could only ask ‘yes’ or ‘no’ questions to determine what animal they were. Then, three presentations were given: Georgia SFI by Chase Cook, SFI Program Coordinator, the Use of Personal Protection Equipment in the Field given by Matt Donovan, Senior Resource Forester for Weyerhaeuser

and a PowerPoint covering the History of Forestry and Wildlife in Georgia by Gail Westcot, Education Coordinator at the Mary Kahrs Warnell Forest Education Center. The rest of the afternoon included a Project WET activity, “Sum of Parts”, facilitated by Tammy Hyder of East Coweta Middle School a 2009 TCW graduate, which demonstrated how one person or organization’s decisions and actions affects everyone and everything around it, an Animal Program by Pete Griffin, Wildlife Interpretive Specialist, a second Project WET activity, “Seeing Watersheds”, that helps students characterize what a watershed is, identify the key parts and functions of a watershed, determine watershed boundaries, discover how watersheds are named and describe

how water flows in a watershed based on elevation. At the end of the day, Rusty Garrison introduced a Project WILD activity, “Oh Deer!” “Oh Deer!” addresses what a habitat is, an animals basic needs and the natural effect on population. Lastly, teachers were assigned their presentation activities and were given time to begin their discussion and planning in their presentation groups.

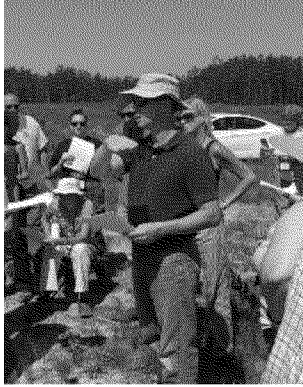
Day 2: Tuesday, the bus was loaded by 7:30 a.m., headed to the first of four sites for the day. First stop, the Piedmont National Wildlife



*Example from PowerPoint*



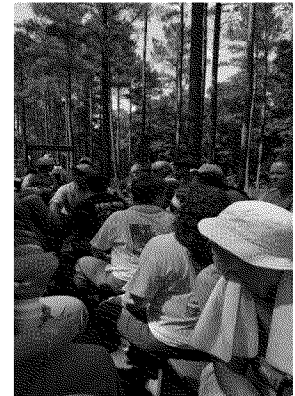
*Carolyn Johnson - Piedmont NWR*



*Matt Donovan, Senior Resource Forester, Weyerhaeuser*

Refuge (NWR) where Carolyn Johnson, Assistant Refuge Manager, greeted the group. Teachers had the opportunity to look around the Visitor's Center and traveled out to two field sites managed to serve as a refuge for the Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers. The second stop: Weyerhaeuser Timberlands. During the visit at Weyerhaeuser, Matt Donovan explained the purpose and mission of Weyerhaeuser Timberlands. He also went stand by stand, described each and addressed the benefits. The stands included: a cleared stand, reforested stand, Stream Management Zone (SMZ) and mid-succession pine stand. After lunch, teachers visited a Weyerhaeuser logging site. They were able to see and hear about the logging process.

Tuesday's site visits came to a close at Gully Branch Tree Farm. Owners Earl and Wanda Barrs, provided a wagon tour of their farm. The tour included Earl Barrs, Reggie Thackston, Regional Game Bird Biologist, Carolina Regional Quail Project Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy and Scott Thackston, Georgia Forestry Commission's (GFC) Water Quality Program Coordinator as guides. The tour included: a controlled burn area, early-, mid- and late-succession stands, game management areas, SMZs and three different



*Touring Gully Branch*



*Birds and Worms*

stands that had been burned 1-week prior, 3-weeks prior and 3-months prior and the growth rate of the understory. Teachers were constantly engaged and were encouraged to ask questions. Once the wagon tour came to an end, teachers participated in three different activities, one from each project. This trio of activities began with "Quick Frozen Critters" from Project WILD which highlights the relationship between predators and prey and limitations that may affect the wildlife populations. Next, "Macroinvertebrate

Mayhem" from Project WET to address water quality and the correlation between water quality, tolerant versus intolerant species and an ecosystems health. The last activity was from Project Learning Tree, facilitated by Carla Rapp. "Birds and Worms" touches on adaptations of birds and prey and focuses on the importance of camouflage to the prey (worms) as the predators (birds) are on the hunt. Tuesday wrapped up with dinner at Gully Branch.



*Macroinvertebrate Mayhem*

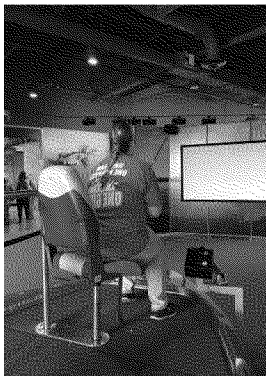
Day 3: Everyone was ready to go by 6:50 a.m. for another fun-filled, educational adventure. Wednesday held four site visits as well: Weyerhaeuser Flint River Paper Mill, GFC's Flint River Nursery, GoFish Education Center and the Georgia Forestry Association's (GFA) office. Weyerhaeuser Flint River Paper Mill assisted with putting the pieces together. On



*Phillip Exley, Forestry Services Manager, Weyerhaeuser*

Tuesday, teachers got to see the logging site and Wednesday they were able to see where the logs may go and their use. At the Paper Mill, teachers received a tour of the lumber yard, guided by Phillip Exley, Forestry Services Manager for Weyerhaeuser Company, listened to a presentation on mill operations and participated in a tour of the mill to see how pulp products are made. From the Weyerhaeuser Flint River Paper Mill, we traveled to the GFC Flint River Nursery. At the nursery, teachers had the opportunity to see how trees are grown and cared for. Russell Ayers performed a tree grafting demonstration. Russell and Jeff Fields, Flint River Nursery Manager, also demonstrated direct pollination of a pine tree and fielded all questions from the teachers. GoFish Education Center in Perry, Georgia was just a short ride away. This visit was designed to give teachers an inside look at the

Center. Teachers were taken on a tour by Michael Fulghum, Education Coordinator, and allowed to explore the interactive area. The rest of the afternoon was spent at the GFA Office in Forsyth. Joe Parsons, Past GFA Chair (2015) welcomed TCW teachers and presented a short slide show about GFA and Graphic Packaging, his current company. Gail Westcot followed with “Tree Observation Synthesis”, a compilation of Project Learning Tree activities. The purpose of this activity is to give students



*GoFish Interactive*

an option of how they would like to closely look at a tree and its habitat, allowing them to view it from a range of perspectives. We were joined by a panel of representatives consisting of: Daniel Lauderdale of Canfor, Daniel Westcot, Outreach Coordinator for the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Dr. William Moore and Donna Webb of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC), Lauren Hildreth, Undergraduate Student Relations and Outreach Coordinator and Katelyn Kivett, Student Relations and Outreach Coordinator, with University of Georgia’s Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, Joe Parsons, Scott Griffin of GFC and Rusty

Garrison representing the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Wildlife Resource Division (WRD). Members of the panel were invited to represent different careers in the Natural Resources field and openly accepted questions from the audience in an effort to aid the understanding of the careers available to their students and the qualifications for certain industries. Members of the panel joined everyone afterwards for dinner and mingling.



*Russell Ayers and Jeff Fields: Pollination Demonstration*



*Past GFA Chair, Joe Parsons - Welcoming TCW Teachers*



*Teachers outside of Jordan Forest Products, LLC*

Day 4: Thursday was another early day, we pulled out at 6:50 a.m. The first site visit was Jordan Forest Products, LLC. Teachers received a well-made pamphlet that contained photos of the mill and operations. Larry Spillers gave a short presentation on Jordan Forest Products. Special guest, Robert Jordan also addressed the group. A walking tour through the lumber mill was provided for them as well. The final site visit for the workshop was Buckelew Tree Farm owned by Jim Adams and Ryan Klesko. Lynn Hooven, manager, went above and beyond to deliver a great program.

Once we entered Buckelew Tree Farm, stations were set up through the entire tour. First stop was solely focused on longleaf pines with material given out by the Chattahoochee Fall Line Conservation Partnership representative LuAnn Craighton, Outreach Director. Next, Lynn Hooven and Druid Preston gave a presentation on Naval Store History. Teachers also received hands on experience measuring and coring pines with the help of GFC employees. A wagon tour of the property was provided. Along the tour, a station for Wildlife management was set up as well as



*Longleaf Pine Presentation at Buckelew Tree Farm*



*Naval Store History with Lynn Hooven, Manager and Druid Preston*

a presentation on snakes. The final stop on the tour consisted of one of the teachers favorite demonstrations.

The GFC expanded on prescribed burns and their effect on the environment followed by a live demonstration of a controlled burn with assistance from a plane and a helicopter brought in to show how they are used to dump water to suppress fires. After the demonstration and a short break the teachers took part in, “400-Acre Woods” activity from Project Learning Tree. “400-Acre Woods” is an activity focused on land management. Students must

design a land management plan using a key. Then are given a profit and expense chart to calculate their profit or loss of their management plan. The afternoon wrapped up with a chance for the teachers to take a breath and mingle amongst one another and talk with GFC employees that were in attendance to help with the presentation(s).



*Every Tree for Itself*

Day 5: Friday was spent at Charlie Elliott wrapping up the workshop. Six groups of five presented their assigned activities from one of the three Projects. Activities presented, along with a brief description are as follows:



*Living with Fire*



*Common Waters*



*8-4-1, One for All*

- “Every Tree for Itself/Tree Cookies” – Project Learning Tree: Focused on resource competition for trees and understanding what is represented by tree cookies, for example: age, years of stress, early growth, late growth, etc.
- “Living with Fire” – Project Learning Tree: Focused on forest fires and how they spread, can be stopped or can be managed.
- “8-4-1, One for All” – Project WET: Focused on waterways and how sharing a waterway with others means that you must cooperate with one another to care for that waterway because all of the using parties have the same responsibilities.
- “Common Water” – Project WET: Focused on the effects of communal use on a single waterway and the impacts that mankind has had over the years.
- “Fashion a Fish” – Aquatic WILD: Focused on fish identification, adaptations and their importance, and research.
- “Great Migration Challenge” – Flying WILD: Focuses on migratory birds and the helps and challenges associated with migrating.

Teachers were supplied with three kits prepared with all the supplies needed to facilitate an activity, these are referred to as Take-N-Teach kits. They have one prepared kit for each of the following: “Water Wonders” – Project Learning Tree, “A Grave Mistake” – Project WET and “How Many Bears?” – Project WILD. After the completion of presentations and review of their Take-N-Teach kits, teachers received their

certificate of completion of the educator workshop in Project Learning Tree, Project WET and Project WILD.



*Fashion a Fish*

The Teacher Conservation Workshop would not be a success without the help from our Sponsors and volunteers. If you are still curious as to what teachers thought about the workshop, one teacher responded with, “The workshop has heightened my awareness “tree-mendously!” Another teacher recently shared the following:

*“....The week before last I had the absolute pleasure of attending the truly awesome 2016 Georgia Teacher Conservation Workshop ..... Without a doubt this was the most engaging and energizing programs I have ever attended...”*

Even though the workshop took place weeks ago, we are still receiving comments from the teachers that were in attendance.