

## Ecosystem Markets: From Priceless to Valuable

Texas is increasingly ripe for a conference to further stimulate and galvanize emerging efforts to form mitigation banks, carbon markets, water quality trading schemes, and other attempts to improve environmental conditions through ecosystem market mechanisms. With recent divestitures in forest industry, phenomenal rates of urbanization, and concerns about air quality and climate change, there is considerable interest in ecosystem market development. At the same time, the topic remains fairly new and there is considerable opportunity for learning and for accelerating the pace of adoption of appropriate market mechanisms and the formation of more robust regional markets.

The Texas Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting brings together some of the best speakers, talking about some of the most interesting topics in the use of ecosystem markets as alternative opportunities for forest landowners and managers. While the focus will be on opportunities for Texas, examples will be drawn from national and international initiatives discussing forest carbon, biodiversity, watershed payments, and financial funds and institutions capitalizing on these new market opportunities. At the end of this meeting you will emerge with an understanding of how environmental markets work and how you can be a part of this exciting global development.

### Speakers:

*Evan Mercer* - Research Economist, Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service

*Brad Raffle* - President, Conservation Capital

*J. Mike Bird* - CEO Advanced Ecology, Ltd. & Executive V.P., Conservation Capital, LLC

*Steve Ruddell* - Director of Forest Investments and Sustainability, Forecon, Inc.

*John McMahon* - President, Society of American Foresters

*Kerri Smith* - Wetlands Scientist, Sphere 3 Environmental

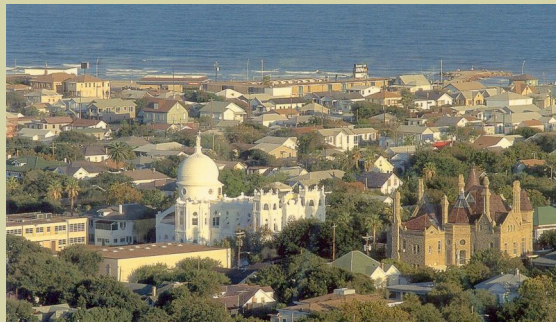
*Justice Jones* - Urban Wildland Interface Coordinator, Texas Forest Service

*Carolyn Vogel*, Texas Land Trust Council

*Jim Hull* - Director, Texas Forest Service

*Mary Ketchersid*, Extension Specialists, Texas Cooperative Extension

*Amy Hays* - Geospatial Extension Specialist, Texas Cooperative Extension



### Texas Society of American Foresters

For more information contact:  
Mike Murphrey  
TSAF Business Manager  
936-639-8179  
mmurphrey@tfs.tamu.edu

**TEXAS**  
Society of American Foresters  
science for a changing planet

## 2007 Annual Meeting

### Ecosystem Markets: From Priceless to Valuable



April 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Moody Gardens Hotel &  
Convention Center  
1-888-388-8484  
www.moodygardenshotel.com  
Galveston, Texas

## General Info

**Conference Location:** The 2007 TSAF Annual Meeting will take place at Moody Gardens Hotel on Galveston Island. Attendees will be responsible for booking their own room. A block of 30 rooms are reserved and room rates are guaranteed until April 3.

**Student Registration:** Students may take advantage of a special reduced registration fee that includes meetings, crawfish boil, lunch and t-shirt. Or, you may also attend the Wednesday lectures at no charge (lunch not included)

**Continuing Education Units:** Up to 12 hours/category 1 SAF CFE, 3 hours TDA CEU general, and ISA (TBD)

**Silent Auction:** Members of the forestry community have donated many items: however, more contributions are needed and welcomed. Contact Mike Murphrey to contribute.

**Pre-Conference Training:** Three training opportunities are provided prior to the conference. They include:

- **GeoSpatial Tool Kit**
- **Risk Assessment**
- **Pesticide Applicators Training and Exam TDA License** (*Participants must purchase books and review material prior to the pre-conference training*)

Seats are limited. At least 10 registrants required for each. Registrants will be notified by April 13 if event is to be cancelled. Refunds provided at the registration desk. Additional charges may apply. Please visit the TSAF website, [www.tsaf.org](http://www.tsaf.org), for details on each training opportunity.

## Event Schedule

(schedule subject to change)

### Tuesday, April 24, 2007

12:00 Pre-Conference Training & Conference Registration

6:00 Crawfish Boil & Entertainment

### Wednesday, April 25, 2007

8:00 Market Based Mechanisms  
*Evan Mercer, USDA Forest Service*

9:15 Practical Legal Aspects  
*Brad Raffle, Conservation Capital, LLC*

10:00 The Stacking Concept  
*J. Mike Bird, Advanced Ecology, Ltd. & Conservation Capital, LLC*

10:45 Wetlands Mitigation Banking  
*Kerri Smith, Sphere 3 Environmental*

12:00 Lunch

12:45 SAF Update  
*John McMahan, SAF*

1:30 Awards

2:15 Carbon Banking  
*Steve Ruddell, Forecon, Inc.*

3:15 Special Consideration for the Wildland/Urban Interface  
*Justice Jones, Texas Forest Service*

4:15 Trusts for Public Land  
*Carolyn Vogel, Texas Land Trust Council*

6:00 Networking Reception

### Thursday, April 26, 2007

7:00 Texas Forestry Update  
*Jim Hull, Texas Forest Service*

9:30 Arbor Day Ceremony & Words from the Mayor, *Honorable Lyda Ann Thomas*

11:45 TSAF Business Meeting & Lunch

2:00 Adjourn

*Texas Society of American Foresters*

## Sign-up Form

Please complete and return this form by April 5, 2007

**No Refunds** (*unless otherwise stated*)

**Late Fee = \$40** (*shirts not available after April 5*)

<b>Price includes meeting and meals</b>	<b>Price</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Members Registration Fee	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member Registration Fee	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Fee	\$65

#### Other non-inclusive options

<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday lunch and presentations only	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Luncheon Only	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> T-shirts	\$10

(circle appropriate size)  
M L XL 2XL 3XL

#### Pre-Conference Training Opportunities

<input type="checkbox"/> GeoSpatial Tool Kit	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Risk Assessment	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Certification & Exams	\$30

(*does not include book or licensing fees*)

**Total Amount Included** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Lodging Reservations

*Accommodation costs not included in registration fee*

Contact Moody Gardens no later than **April 3**  
1-888-388-8484. Singles = \$135 (state rate = \$85, fed rate = \$90). Doubles = \$135 (all)

If you need a roommate, we will try to arrange one.

- I need a roommate

Return completed form and check payable to Texas SAF:  
Texas Society of American Foresters  
P.O. Box 150555  
Lufkin, Texas 75915-0555