

AFC Board of Commissioners Elects New Chair and Vice Chair

By Elishia Ballentine, Editor



Jerry M. Smith

Tuskegee University. A member of both the Lamar County Forest Planning Committee and Weyerhaeuser Foundation Committee, Smith is also a member of the Vernon City Council. His other civic activities include serving as Vice President of the Lamar County Athletic Booster Club; Treasurer of the Vernon Pee Wee Football Program; and Representative on the Vernon Youth Basketball Program.

Melisa Love is self-employed as a consulting forester with Forestry Consultants, Inc., an Opelika company which she founded in 1984. Previously, she was employed as Senior Forester at Georgia Kraft Company (now MeadWestvaco) in Waverly. A 1976 graduate of Virginia Tech with a BS degree in Forest Resource Management, she also earned a Masters of Science degree in Forest Economics from Auburn University in 1995. Love is active as a member and officer in both the National and Alabama Chapters of the Association of Consulting Foresters. She has also served as a Trustee with the Bradley-Murphy Trust since 1996, where along with fellow Trustees she evaluates and approves funding for grants used in the Natural Resources field. Love's other professional and leadership activities include the Society of American Foresters; the Alabama Natural Resources Coordinating Council (formerly the Alabama Forest Planning Committee); Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Extension Advisory Council; Longleaf Alliance; and the Alabama Forestry Association where she is not only a member but also a Tree Farm Inspector. She is a former member and officer on the Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters.



Melisa Love

As dictated by state law, election of new officers was the first order of business at the annual meeting of the Alabama Forestry Commission's Board of Commissioners on January 10th at the state forestry headquarters in Montgomery. The Board elected Jerry M. Smith of Vernon as the new Chairman and Melisa Love of Opelika as Vice-Chair. The two new Commission officers begin their duties immediately.

Jerry M. Smith is a Mid-Rotation Forester with Weyerhaeuser Company in Millport, Alabama, where he has been employed for 18 years. He is a 1989 graduate of Auburn University, with a Bachelors of Science degree in Forest Management. Prior to that he received an Associates Degree in Pre-Forestry at

According to Alabama's State Forester Linda S. Casey, "Between Jerry Smith and Melisa Love they have nearly 40 years of experience in helping landowners and other users of Alabama's natural resources. Additionally, Jerry and Melisa support and are involved in their local communities. Both will be great assets as Chair and Co-Chair of the Commission."

Other members of the Alabama Forestry Commission include immediate past chairman, Don Heath of Hoover; Jett Freeman of Spanish Fort; Randy Gilmore of McCalla; Jerry Lacy of Fayette; and Kenneth Real of Detroit, Alabama. The seven-member board, appointed by the Governor, is responsible for setting policy for the agency. ♣