



Forest Conversion in the Southeast – Tools to Avoid Unwanted Conversion

July 27, 2021 2:00 – 3:30 pm ET

Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckd-6pqzqgE9Yt0JH4mQlgWKgMoXa6pTgi>

Overall Purpose: This webinar aims to educate private forest landowners and natural resource professionals about the industry-wide threat of conversion in the Southeastern U.S. and will highlight several systems-level, long-term approaches that are being developed to conserve working forests in the Southeast. Additionally, the webinar will detail activities that family forestland owners can take to avoid unwanted conversion, including family succession and estate planning, Heirs’ property resolution, and available incentives programs and forest certification programs, all of which can help family landowners avoid forest conversion on their properties.

Approved for for 1 SAF Category 1 CFE credit

FACILITATOR AGENDA	
2:00 – 2:05	<p>Welcome and Introductions <i>Facilitated by Dakota Wagner, Forest Stewards Guild</i></p>
2:05 – 2:30	<p>What is conversion, what are the consequences, and what is being done on a systems level? <i>Presented by Scott Davis from Keeping Forests</i></p> <p>A presentation about the state of conversion Southeastern forests, the problems that conversion presents in the Southeast, and 3 systems-level approaches to combating conversion on which the Keeping Forests coalition focuses.</p> <p>Scott Davis worked for The Nature Conservancy for 23 years, serving as a State Director, Divisional Director of Conservation Programs, and as a Senior Conservation Advisor for the North American Region. In 2017 Scott began working with the Endowment for Forests and Communities on the Keeping Forests initiative. Scott’s formal training includes the areas of aquatic ecology, sustainable compatible resource use and sustainable ecosystem management, and has degrees in aquatic ecology from Miami University and Texas A&M University. Early in his career, he spent 13 years working in S. America and SE Asia on a variety of fishery management projects.</p>
2:30 – 2:55	<p>Looking ahead: Avoiding Conversion Through Family Succession/Estate Planning and Heirs’ Property Resolution <i>Presented by Joshua F. Walden, Esq., C.O.O., Center for Heirs’ Property Preservation</i></p>

	<p>A presentation discussing the dangers associated with heirs' property and why it is uniquely vulnerable to unwanted conversion, and the activities family forestland owners can take to remedy and avoid unwanted conversion.</p> <p>Joshua F. Walden joined the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation in 2009 as Supervising Attorney and is currently the Chief Operating Officer. Josh has been practicing law for over 20 years (primarily in the areas of real estate and estates) and is also a SC certified civil court mediator.</p>
2:55 – 3:20	<p>Looking ahead: Avoiding Conversion Through Incentives Programs and Certification <i>Presented by Julius George, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service</i> A presentation summarizing some available incentives programs and forest certification programs in the southeast that can assist family landowners in managing their property in order to avoid forest conversion.</p> <p>Julius George is the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, Easements, and Water Resources in the North Carolina Natural Resources Conservation Service.</p>
3:20 – 3:30	<p>Questions and Wrap Up <i>Facilitated by Dakota Wagner, Forest Stewards Guild</i></p>

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