

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Name and Department: Thomas J. Straka, Department of Forest Resources

Educational Background:

B.S., Forest Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1972
M.S., Forest Resource Management, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1973
M.B.A., Business Administration, University of South Carolina-Columbia, 1978
Ph.D., Forest Resource Management and Economics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1981

Professional Experience:

1974-1975	Associate Forester; International Paper Company; Marion, S.C.
1975-1977	Forester; International Paper Company; Conway, S.C.
1977-1978	Project Forester; International Paper Company; Georgetown, S.C.
1978-1981	Graduate Research Assistant; Virginia Tech
1982-1987	Assistant Professor of Forestry, Mississippi State University
1987-1989	Associate Professor of Forestry, Mississippi State University
1989-1995	Associate Professor of Forest Resources, Clemson University
1995-Present	Professor of Forest Resources, Clemson University

Research Experience:

Twenty-five years of research experience primarily in the areas of the nonindustrial private forest and landowners, regional economics, quantitative forest economics, forest valuation and investment analysis, and economic evaluation of forestry programs. Over 400 publications, with over 140 in refereed journals.

Brief Summary of Accomplishments:

Five years of industrial forestry experience and 25 years of academic experience. Wide exposure to southern forestry and recognized ability to perform applied research in forest valuation issues, forest resource management and planning, and forest economics. Significant consulting experience in these areas.

SAF Offices and Recognition

Chair, Winyah Chapter, 1978; Keowee Chapter, 1991-1992 and 1999.
Chair, National Committee on Student Affairs, 1986-1989.
Member, National Task Force on Review of Structure of SAF Science Programs, 1987-1989.
Chair, Mississippi SAF, 1987.
Chair, Appalachian SAF, 2000.
Chair, South Carolina Division SAF, 2008
Certified Forester #30.
Fellow, 2001.
National Council, 2011-2013.

Biographical Sketch - Thomas J. Straka

Thomas J. Straka is a professor of forestry and natural resources at Clemson University in Clemson, S.C. His educational background includes: B.S., forest science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1972; M.S., forest resource management, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1973; M.B.A., business administration, University of South Carolina-Columbia, 1978; and Ph.D., forest resource management and economics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1981.

Dr. Straka has over 30 years of professional forestry experience. He worked as a project forester (timberland management and regional technical department) with International Paper Company for about five years. He held a teaching/research appointment in forest resource management and economics at Mississippi State University for nearly 8 years (earned tenure in 1987). Since 1989 he has held a teaching research appointment in forest resource management and economics at Clemson University. He is currently a tenured professor of forestry and natural resources at Clemson University.

Dr. Straka has over 400 research publication, with over one-quarter in refereed journals. He has been principal investigator on 36 extramurally-funded research projects. Research interests include the nonindustrial private forest, forest valuation, operational forest management problems, and management science/operations research. His dissertation centered on timber supply from the nonindustrial private forest and his research shows a continuing major thrust in that area. He publishes in a wide range of journals and magazines and shows the ability to communicate with both highly technical and popular audiences.

Dr. Straka's teaching has centered on forest resource management, forest resource economics, forest resource valuation, forest resource policy, and forest resource management planning. He teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. His also a popular short course/continuing education instructor. He is an active forestry consultant. His major projects involve forest valuation problems, forest appraisal, expert witness, forest management planning, and timber management investment organizations.

Dr. Straka is very active in the professional forestry community. Within the Society of American Foresters he has served on the National Council, has chaired the three-state (S.C., N.C., and Va.) Appalachian SAF and the Mississippi SAF, has chaired the National Student Affairs Committee, and was a member of the National Task Force on SAF Science Programs. The Appalachian SAF presented him the Distinguished Service to Forestry Award in 2001 and he was elected a Fellow in the SAF in the same year. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Forestry Association and has served in dozens of other offices.

P. O. Box 594
Pendleton, S.C. 29670
November 21, 2014

South Carolina Foresters Council
C/O Jon Sokol
Forest Investment Associates
15 Piedmont Center, Suite 1250
Atlanta, GA 30305

Dear Foresters Council:

I am very willing to serve as a member of the Board of Registration for Foresters. I am Registered Forester #602 and have been registered since 1977. Attached are a short resume and biographical sketch. Both are one page; if you require a detailed resume, I have a long version (over 50 pages) that I will gladly send. Most of my background is academic, but I also spent five years as a forester working for International Paper Company in Georgetown. I consult quite a bit and have extensive contacts throughout the South. I am very familiar with Boards of Registration throughout the South and have a keen interest in the issues of forester licensing and registration. I am also very familiar with the long on-going problems the Board has experienced with some in the forestry community.

My professional activities have been extensive, especially with the Society of American Foresters. I have served as South Carolina SAF Division Chair, Appalachian SAF Chair, and as a National SAF Council Member. Those are elected positions within the forestry profession. I am well-known in the South Carolina forestry community and know most of the key forestry players in the State.

Many of the Board Members know me. I think they know me as a leader and someone who carries his weight on professional committees and boards. I would consider serving on the Board to an honor and an obligation I would take very seriously.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Straka