

2007 Southern Mensurationists Conference

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The 2007 Southern Mensurationists Conference was held at the Hilton Garden Inn Beachfront, Orange Beach, Alabama, November 12–15, 2007. About 30 forest biometricians, modelers, and statisticians from Canada, Chile, and the United States participated in the conference. The conference participants presented 30 papers on various topics organized in the following groups: Forest biometrics and modeling, Inventory and sampling methods, Self-referencing functions and parameter estimation methods, Wood quality, Forest management, and Cooperatives and collaboration opportunities. This was the ninth Southern Mensurationists Conference since the beginning of the group in 1999 when the Southern Mensurationists held their first event on Jekyll Island, GA. The Southern Mensurationists Conferences rotate their locations among different states. Previous conferences were held in Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and South Carolina, the 2008 conference was held in Florida, and the 2009 conference will be held in Texas. The main target of the Southern Mensurationists Conferences is to conglomerate diverse aspects of quantitative methods used in forest inventory and management under the general umbrella of forest measurements, quantitative methods, and management. This conference series is sponsored annually by the open forum of the Southern Mensurationists, the University of Georgia, Weyerhaeuser Company, and different universities and companies hosting the conference at their locations in different states. Once every five years the Southern Mensurationists organize a joined event with an International Conference on Forest Measurement and Quantitative Methods & Management that is usually cosponsored by the Biometrics working group of the Society of American Foresters and the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations. The joint conferences took places in 1999 on Jekyll Island, GA, and in 2004 in Hot Springs, AR.

It has been a sparse tradition of the Southern Mensurationists conferences to produce publications from the events in the form of proceedings and occasionally special journal issues. Different journals over the years assumed the role of sponsors for the special issues related to these events. *Forest Science* and *Mathematical Modeling and Scientific Computing* were the first two journals hosting special issues related to the 1999 conference. Subsequently, *Forest Science* published a special issue related to the 2004 joint conference, and a few months before the 2007 conference, Ian Munn, Editor of the *Southern Journal of Applied Forestry*, agreed to collaborate on a special issue of the journal comprising selected papers relating to the 2007 conference. This special issue of the *Southern Journal of Applied Forestry*, which includes articles written and revised following the usual peer-review process, was organized to reflect some of the highlights of this conference. The issue contains a collection of seven articles that came from the conference sessions on Forest

Biometrics and Modeling (4 articles), Inventory (2 articles), and Forest Management (1 article). The following papers are presented in this issue:

- *Biological, Economic, and Management Implications of Weighted Least Squares*, by Curtis L. VanderSchaaf and David South, which discusses impacts of choices between the OLS and WLS parameter estimation in fitting volume equations.
- *Calibrating a Segmented Taper Equation with Two Diameter Measurements*, by Quang V. Cao, which discusses issues related to fitting tree taper equations using outside-bark and inside-bark diameters.
- *A Comparison of Sampling Methods for a Standing Tree Acoustic Device*, by Jerry M. Mahon Jr., Lewis Jordan, Laurence R. Schimleck, Alexander Clark III, and Richard F. Daniels, which discusses evaluating potential product performance using acoustic tools for identifying trees with high stiffness.
- *A New Whole-Stand Model for Unmanaged Loblolly and Slash Pine Plantations in East Texas*, by Dean W. Coble, which discusses development of a new compatible whole-stand growth and yield model for predicting total cubic-foot volume yield (outside and inside-bark) for unmanaged loblolly pine and slash pine plantations in east Texas.
- *Does Row Orientation Affect the Growth of Loblolly Pine Plantations*, by Ralph L. Amateis, Harold E. Burkhart, and Coleen A. Carlson, which discusses applications of analysis of covariance to long-term loblolly pine spacing trial growth data in studies of row orientation impact on basal area and dominant height growth of loblolly pine.
- *Sensitivity Analysis On Long-Term Fiber Supply Simulations In Georgia*, by Shangbin Liu, Chris J. Cieszewski, Roger Lowe III, and Michal Zasada, which discusses a spatially-explicit forest management simulations for Georgia sensitivity to management and harvesting assumptions.
- *Assessment of Stream Management Zones and Road Beautifying Buffers in Georgia Based on Remote Sensing and Various Ground Inventory Data*, by Roger C. Lowe, Chris J. Cieszewski, Shangbin Liu, Qingmin Meng, Jacek P. Siry, Michal Zasada, and Jaroslaw Zawadzki, which discusses spatial assessment and analysis of Stream Management Zones and Road Beautifying Buffers in Georgia.

An additional paper developed from two presentations at the conference, *Evaluation of Four Methods to Estimate Parameters of an Annual Tree Survival and Diameter Growth Model* by Quang V. Cao and Mike R. Strub, was published in the December 2008 issue of *Forest Science* (Cao, Q.V., and M.R. Strub. 2008. *Simultaneous estimation of parameters of an annual tree survival and diameter growth model*. For. Sci. 54:617–624).

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