



**SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY
AND AFRICAN AMERICAN
LAND RETENTION NETWORK**



Welcome to the final Legacy and the Land newsletter of the year. As we enter the last month of 2025, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community. Thank you for supporting SFLR's mission, standing with us, and helping us continue the important work of protecting African American-owned land and forests. Let's jump into our last newsletter of the year.



A Year of Milestones and Momentum

As I look back on 2025, I'm filled with gratitude for how far we've come as an organization and as a community. This year has truly been incredible. One of the achievements I'm most proud of is SFLR officially securing our 501(c)(3) status. This milestone reflects years of dedication, collaboration, and belief in our mission to support African American land and forest owners.

I'm also especially proud of launching the [Roots to Resilience](#) podcast. Sharing the stories of our landowners, partners, and community members has been one of the greatest highlights of my year. Every conversation has reminded me why this work matters and how powerful storytelling can be in preserving land, history, and legacy.

As we head into 2026, I'm energized by the plans we already have in motion. We're committed to growing our impact, amplifying even more voices, and continuing to support African American landowners in meaningful, lasting ways.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. I'm excited for all we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

Warmly,
Bethaney

Roots to Resilience Empowering Land Legacies

Highlights From the 2025 Forest Landowner Conference

This month, we're spotlighting our SFLR Network site **Roanoke Cooperative** and their work through the **Sustainable Forestry & Land Retention Project** at the *2025 Forest Landowner Conference*.

Roanoke has uploaded presentation links and video interviews with several landowners who shared their stories, insights, and experiences from the conference. These resources offer valuable perspectives and we encourage you to explore them.





[Learn More Here](#)



Landowner Preserves Family Land Through UAPB Forestry Program

SFLR site partner **University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's Keeping it in the Family (KIITF) Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Program** recently shared a powerful story of legacy, perseverance, and community support.

Eugene Sinclair and his family have had their land in Columbia County, Arkansas, for nearly 130 years. The land was deeply important to Sinclair's grandmother, who insisted it stay in the family and continued paying the taxes until her passing in 1980. "She knew it needed to stay in the family," Sinclair said.



Years later, Sinclair's sister-in-law attended a KIITF informational session at her church and immediately thought of him. Understanding the importance of keeping African American-owned land in the family, she encouraged him to connect with the KIITF team. Through the program, Sinclair received legal and forestry guidance that helped successfully transfer ownership from his grandmother to his mother and then to him.

But that was just the beginning. He gained access to a professional land survey, boundary line painting, and ongoing support to better understand, manage, and protect his property. "I always tell my family what the next steps are in managing the property, because this isn't just my project—it's our legacy," he said. "In any case, Keeping it in the Family really means something to us. We're living the name."

We encourage you to read the full story for an inspiring look at what's possible when families receive the right resources and support.

[Read the Full Story Here](#)



Catch Up On the *Roots to Resilience* Podcast

It's the perfect time to catch up on all episodes of the **Roots to Resilience** podcast. Each conversation is educational, inspiring, and deeply moving, offering real stories from

landowners, experts, and community leaders who are shaping the future of African American landownership.

If you haven't listened yet, or if you're ready to revisit your favorite moments, now's a great moment to dive in. We encourage you to listen, rate the podcast, and share it with someone who would benefit from these important stories!

[Listen Here](#)

Closing Reflections

Thank you for being part of the SFLR community and for your continued support throughout 2025. We wish you and your loved ones a joyful, healthy, and peaceful holiday season. Here's to growth, resilience, and a strong start to 2026.

With gratitude,
The SFLR Team

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