



Welcome to June! As we step into a new month, we're reflecting on the powerful connections, conversations, and moments of inspiration shared throughout the SFLR Network community.

From celebrating landowners and community leaders at this year's Landowners Conference to highlighting educational opportunities and achievements across our network, we're excited to continue building momentum together as we protect land, preserve legacy, and support future generations.

Let's dive in 🌱



Reflections on Legacy and Community

As we reflect on the 2026 SFLR Network Landowners Conference, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to gather with landowners, partners, forestry professionals, advocates, and community leaders from across our network.

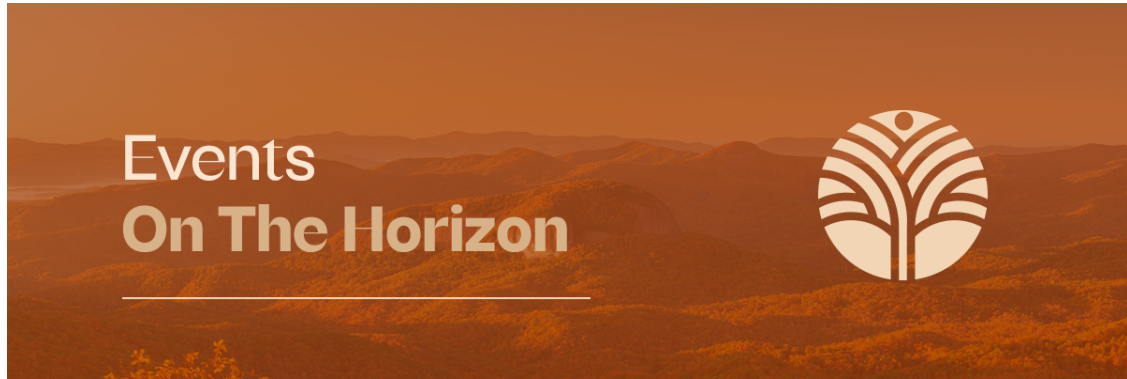
Hosting this year's conference was both a joy and a privilege. Throughout the event, we witnessed the power of community, shared knowledge, and collective commitment to protecting land and preserving generational legacy. From meaningful conversations around heirs' property and estate planning to discussions about stewardship, forestry, and sustainable opportunities for the future, the conference reminded us why this work matters.

As we also prepare to honor Juneteenth this month, I'm reminded that land has always represented more than ownership. It represents freedom, resilience, opportunity, and the continued fight to protect what generations before us worked so hard to build. The work we do together through the **SFLR Network** is deeply connected to that legacy.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in Birmingham and helped make this year's conference so impactful. Your presence, wisdom, and dedication continue to strengthen

this network and the communities we serve.

Warmly,
Bethaney



Registration Open: Tracing Your Roots — Getting Started with Genealogy Research

Registration is now open for the webinar, *Tracing Your Roots: Getting Started with Genealogy Research*, hosted by **Roanoke Cooperative's Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project**.

Event Details

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Time: 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. ET

This free webinar will educate participants about common record types used to uncover genealogical details and how to access them.

The featured presenter is Renate Yarborough Sanders, a renowned genealogist and speaker who has been documenting her family history for more than 30 years.

We had the pleasure of attending Renate's genealogy discussion during this year's Landowners Conference and trust us, this is one presentation you do not want to miss!

Webinar for Forest Landowners

Tracing Your Roots: Getting Started with Genealogy Research

June 9, 2026

1-2 p.m. ET

Sponsored by
Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project
and
NC State Extension Forestry



FEATURED SPEAKER

Renate Yarborough Sanders is a renowned genealogist, speaker and educator who has been documenting her family history for over 30 years. She descends from formerly enslaved ancestors, enslavers and free people of color — all of whom hail from North Carolina. She has conducted research for many notable organizations. She authors two blogs and is a member of many local, state and national genealogical organizations, holding leadership positions in several.

Learn about common record types used to uncover genealogical details, and how to access them. This webinar will equip you with the fundamental skills and methodology needed to move confidently from the known to the unknown. REGISTRATION IS OPEN. To register, click the link below:

https://ncsu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4ldvjK7nQYyAkSlwS9ZziA#/registration



NC STATE
Extension Forestry

[Register Here](#)

Legacy Builders

Kentucky State University Recognizes WCSHC's Frank Taylor

Frank Taylor, Team Leader at **Winston County Self Help Cooperative** (WCSHC), an SFLR member site, recently delivered the commencement address at Kentucky State University's Exum Center for the Class of 2026.

During the ceremony, Kentucky State University's 19th President, Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo, presented Mr. Taylor with an honorary Doctorate degree in recognition of his outstanding leadership, service, and unwavering dedication to both the university and the broader community.

The occasion served as a powerful celebration of achievement, legacy, and commitment to future generations. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Taylor on this incredible honor and thank him for his continued leadership and service.



Roots to Resilience Empowering Land Legacies

2026 Landowners Conference Brings Together Landowners, Experts, and Partners

We're still feeling the impact of the 2026 **SFLR Network Landowners Conference** held in Birmingham, Alabama last month.

Over the course of three days, landowners, experts, and community partners gathered for educational sessions, breakout discussions, networking opportunities, and inspiring conversations centered around land retention, stewardship, and generational legacy.

Attendees explored topics including estate planning, heirs' property, genealogy research, timber markets, carbon opportunities, agrotourism, and federal resources available to support long-term land ownership.

The conference also created space for meaningful relationship building, storytelling, and community connection while celebrating the work being done across the network to support landowners throughout the Southeast.

Thank you again to everyone who joined us and helped make this year's conference such a memorable and impactful gathering! Follow our [Facebook](#) for more highlights.





Closing Reflections

Thank you for being part of this work. If this newsletter resonates with you, we encourage you to share it with your network and help us expand the reach of resources that strengthen land legacies.

With gratitude,
The SFLR Team



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