



Welcome to March. As the seasons begin to shift, we are reminded that stewardship is ongoing work rooted in preparation, partnership, and purpose.

In this edition of the **Legacy & the Land Chronicle**, you'll find updates on upcoming training opportunities, partner announcements, advocacy efforts at the state capitol, and federal policy developments impacting small farms and forest landowners.

This month's newsletter reflects the collective work happening across our network to strengthen land ownership and generational stability. Let's dive in!



Women, Land, and Legacy

Women's History Month invites us to reflect on the often-unseen labor and leadership that sustain families and communities. In the context of SFLR's work, it is impossible to talk about land without acknowledging the women who have quietly and boldly protected it.

Across generations, women have served as caretakers of family land, record keepers of ownership history, mediators during succession conversations, and anchors during times of transition. They have preserved more than acreage. They have preserved story, culture, and continuity.

In many communities, women are the steady force ensuring property taxes are paid, documentation is gathered, heirs are informed, and long-term planning conversations take place. Their leadership may not always make headlines, but it is foundational to generational stability.

This month is not only about celebration. It is about recognizing that stewardship is leadership. It is about honoring the women who have held land together through uncertainty and ensuring the next generation sees land ownership as both responsibility and opportunity.

I am proud to work alongside women who are strengthening land legacies every day.

Warmly,
Bethaney



Georgia Forestry Day: Voices at the Capitol

Last month SFLR Network's Bethaney Wilkinson and Breah Banks joined approximately 160 members of the **Georgia Forestry Association** at the *Georgia State Capitol* for the Association's flagship advocacy event.

The day included:

- An exclusive morning session with U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz
- A lunch panel on Georgia politics featuring Brian Robinson, Tharon Johnson, and GFA President & CEO Tim Lowrimore
- Face-to-face meetings with legislators, including State Senator Freddie Powell Sims, where discussions included K-12 environmental engagement
- A legislative reception featuring remarks from Lt. Governor Burt Jones and House Speaker Jon Burns

Why It Matters

Georgia is the #1 forestry state in the nation, and as the industry navigates a pivotal period of transition, ensuring that forestry professionals and landowners are heard at the Capitol is critical. Partners like the **Georgia Forestry Association** serve as important liaisons, helping industry leaders and members connect directly with elected officials. At this especially important moment for the sector, presence and engagement matter more than ever.

What's Next

Advocacy does not stop at the Capitol steps. If you are unsure who your legislators or senators are, let us know. We encourage you to reach out, invite them to your site, and keep them informed about the impact of forestry in your community.

[Learn more about the Georgia Forestry Association](#)

Senator Booker Leads Push for Small Farms Support Office at USDA

U.S. Senator **Cory Booker** and Representatives **Marilyn Strickland**, **Alma Adams**, and **Jim McGovern** have reintroduced the bicameral *Office of Small Farms Establishment Act*.

The legislation would create a new **Office of Small Farms** within the *U.S. Department of Agriculture* to directly serve small farms, ranches, and forest operations through grants and technical assistance.

Small acreage farms (fewer than 180 acres) make up 70% of all farms in the United States and are vital to rural economic growth and food security. Yet despite their contributions, they receive only 13% of federal farm payments.

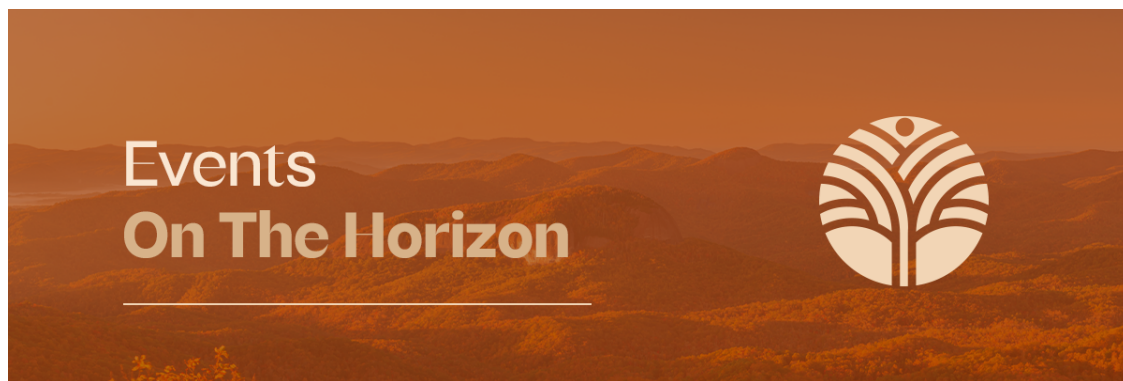
The proposed Office would:

- Serve as a central hub for small farms, ranches, and forest operations
- Issue grants and provide technical assistance
- Recommend improvements to USDA program delivery
- Provide a hotline for farmers facing barriers accessing USDA programs

The bill proposes a \$25 million annual budget to carry out these functions.

As conversations around equity, access, and program design continue, this legislation signals ongoing federal attention to the needs of small and historically underserved producers.

[Learn more here](#)



Understanding Heirs' Property at the Community Level: Train-the-Trainer

We are sharing an important upcoming training opportunity hosted by the **National Policy Research Center** at *Alcorn State University*.

The two-day Fundamentals Train-the-Trainer session is designed to strengthen knowledge around heirs' property at the community level and equip participants to bring this training back to their home states.

When: April 14–15, 2026

Where: Atlanta, Georgia

Training Details:

- Registration, hotel accommodations, and breakfast and lunch during the training are covered.
- Participants are responsible for travel-related meals, dinners, and transportation expenses.
- Only 40 seats are available.
- Priority will be given to those who have not previously attended this training.
- Registration closes at midnight on March 31.

Target Audience:

Land-Grant professionals who will use the materials to train families and communities in their respective states.

[Register here](#)



Legacy Builders

Black Family Land Trust (BLT): Marketing & Rebranding RFP

SFLR partner site **Black Family Land Trust (BFLT)** is currently soliciting bids for a comprehensive marketing and rebranding campaign. The goal of this project is to establish a modern, cohesive, and mission-driven brand identity that strengthens visibility, credibility, and engagement across all communications platforms.

If you know qualified firms or professionals who may be interested, please share this opportunity within your network.

[Learn more here](#)

BFLT Hiring a Heirs' Property Paralegal

BFLT is also hiring a Heirs' Property Paralegal. The organization is seeking a dedicated professional to lead efforts addressing land loss in historically underserved communities. The role requires expertise in real estate transactions, familiarity with heirs' property challenges, and experience in family mediation and conflict resolution.

This position operates at the intersection of:

- Land tenure
- Legal documentation
- Financial literacy
- Estate planning
- Forestry and agricultural asset management
- Generational wealth preservation

The work will support families across North Carolina and Virginia.

[Click here for details](#)

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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