



Threats to Mississippi Forests

We are faced with many hazards in our lives. Working and living in the forests of Mississippi exposes us to many potential hazards. Some are common and some are not as common. It is important that we are aware and well informed about these hazards that we may encounter in our forests. An excellent source of information has been written by Terry Price, Georgia Forestry Commission (retired) and adopted for the web by the Bugwood Network at <http://www.forestpests.org/publichealth/>.

In an earlier article (Forest Health Notes #6 Issued: 11/28/2007) at this site we discussed the potential threat of Africanized Honey Bees (Killer Bees) becoming established in our forests putting forest workers and visitors at potential risk. We are always concerned about new invasive species being encountered in our forests. Some pose serious threats to our forests, others to those who venture into the woods for other reasons. But there are many that are already well established that we have been exposed to for generations. Some can cause allergic reactions ranging from minor discomfort to potential lethal consequences. Hence it is important to be informed of these hazards and pass along the information to others so that all might enjoy the forest resources of Mississippi.

Another source of help, besides the website above that is directed at public health is Dr. Jerome Goddard at Mississippi State University. He is a recognized expert in medical entomology. He is the author of the best-selling medical textbook, in its fifth edition, Physician's Guide to Arthropods of Medical Importance, CRC Press (Taylor and Francis Group), Boca Raton, FL. Prior to joining the faculty of the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology in 2008, he served as the state medical entomologist with the Mississippi Department of Health. He also held an appointment in the University Of Mississippi School Of Medicine. Dr. Goddard is now an associate professor of medical and veterinary entomology at Mississippi State University. Contact information is: Jerome Goddard, Ph.D., Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Box 9775, Mississippi State, MS 39762. He can be reached by phone at 662-325-2085 or by e-mail at jgoddard@entomology.msstate.edu,

Dr. Goddard has indicated he would help in whatever way he could concerning health hazards in the forests of Mississippi.

For additional information contact: [Mississippi Forestry Commission Local Office](#) or T. Evan Nebeker at

tevannebeker@bellsouth.net.

For more information on the Mississippi Forestry Commission Forest Health Program, contact:

Randy Chapin
District Forester, Southwest
P.O. Box 749
515 County Farm Lane NE
Brookhaven, MS 39602-0749
601-833-6621 office
rchapin@mfc.state.us



Figure 1: Snake