



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DICK BRINKER JOINS SFI INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WASHINGTON – Dr. Richard W. (Dick) Brinker, Dean of the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University, has been elected to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc.® (SFI®) Board of Directors.

From 2002 to 2008, Dr. Brinker was a member of the SFI External Review Panel, an independent group of 18 distinguished volunteer experts who advise the SFI Inc. Board on ways to improve the SFI program.

“I have had a front-row view of the impressive growth and maturity of the SFI program – both from my position with the SFI External Review Panel and as Dean of Auburn’s School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences,” Dr. Brinker said. “SFI training and outreach activities are doing a lot to help forest professionals improve practices on the ground, and I am glad I can continue to contribute to this good work.”

Dr. Brinker joins the SFI Board as it is developing the SFI 2010-2014 Standard, the outcome of an extensive public review process that began in June 2008 and has involved more than 2,000 stakeholders. He is a member of the board’s social chamber, replacing John Innes, FRBC Chair of Forest Management at the University of British Columbia’s Sustainable Forest Management Research Group, whose term has expired.

SFI Inc. is a registered non-profit organization responsible for an internationally recognized forest certification program that is among the largest in the world. Its independent 18-member board represents environmental, social and economic sectors equally, and is totally responsible for the SFI program. Current board members include representatives of environmental, conservation, professional and academic groups, independent loggers, family forest landowners, public officials, labor and the forest products sector.

“Dick Brinker’s immense knowledge and leadership as an educator and a professional forester will be a important asset as the board reviews and approves the SFI 2010-2014 Standard this summer,” SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow said. “His involvement will ensure the SFI program continues to work with partners from all sectors to reflect key values and promote sustainable forestry practices.”

Abusow also thanked John Innes for his involvement at a time when the SFI program has experienced immense change, including creation of the fully independent, non-profit SFI Inc. “Our success relies on people like John Innes who contribute their time and expertise to make the program strong and promote the value of third-party forest certification,” she said.

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Before becoming Dean in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences in 1998, Dr. Brinker held a joint extension and teaching appointment at Auburn University, and was involved in coordinating extension education activities for professional loggers, foresters, and landowners. More than 2,700 logging contractors have completed a five-day Professional Logging Manager Course he began in 1992. He was also Auburn University's Timber Harvesting Specialist for 10 years, and has worked in the forest industry for 12 years, with experience in land management, wood procurement, timber harvesting, and lumber mill management.

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Editors Note: A biography of Dr. Richard Brinker and a list of current SFI Inc. Board members are attached. More information about SFI Inc.'s independent governance is available at www.sfiprogram.org/who/sfi-governance.php

About SFI Inc.

SFI Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program (www.sfiprogram.org), that is internationally recognized and among the largest in the world. It is one of the fastest-growing forest certification programs with more than 160 million acres (65 million hectares) of SFI-certified forests across North America. The SFI Standard also includes unique fiber sourcing requirements that promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands and a chain-of-custody certification, which can communicate to buyers how much certified fiber is in a specific product. The SFI forest standard is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, a global umbrella organization that has strict requirements for endorsement. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.



BACKGROUND: DR. RICHARD W. BRINKER BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Richard W. (Dick) Brinker has been Dean and Professor in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University since 1998. During this time, the school has become one of the most highly regarded and productive natural resource programs in the southern region of the United States.

From 1988 to 1998, Dr. Brinker held a joint extension and teaching appointment at Auburn, and was involved in coordinating extension education activities for professional loggers, foresters, and landowners. More than 2,700 logging contractors have completed a five-day Professional Logging Manager Course he began in 1992. He also taught undergraduate courses in Forest Surveying, Timber Harvesting and Geographic Information Systems, and continues to teach Forest Surveying at the Forestry Summer Practicum.

Dr. Brinker also served Auburn University's Timber Harvesting Specialist for 10 years before his appointment as Dean. He has worked in forest industry for 12 years, with experience in land management, wood procurement, timber harvesting, and lumber mill management.

From 2002 to 2008, Dr. Brinker was a member of the SFI External Review Panel, an independent group of 18 distinguished volunteer experts who advise the SFI Inc. Board of Directors on ways to improve the SFI program. He chaired the panel for two years.

Dr. Brinker has a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry from Louisiana State University, an MBA from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a Ph.D. in forestry from Louisiana State University. A registered forester in Alabama and Mississippi, he is also a member of several professional organizations, including the Society of American Foresters (SAF), Forest Products Society, American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, and Council on Forest Engineering.

Dr. Brinker is a member of the Alabama Foresters Hall of Fame, and has won a number of awards, including Fellow, 2001 – Society of American Foresters; Technology Transfer and Extension Award, 2001 – Society of American Foresters; Extension Forester of the Year, 1997 – Forest Landowners Association, and Outreach Award for Excellence, 1997 - Auburn University.

He is the Past Chair of the Southeastern Society of American Foresters; Past Chair and Historian for the Alabama Division, SAF; Past Chair of the War Eagle Chapter, SAF; and Past Chair of the Southeastern Section of the Forest Products Society. Brinker serves on the Board of Directors, Forest Landowners Association, and is Chair of the Forestry Research Advisory Committee that provides recommendations of federal forestry research to the USDA Secretary of Agriculture. He is a Colonel (Ret.) in the U.S. Army Reserve, with 30 years of service.



BACKGROUND: SFI INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board members representing the environmental sector, which includes non-profit environmental or conservation organizations:

- Tom Franklin, Senior Vice-President, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- William B. Rogers, President and CEO, The Trust for Public Land
- Roger Sedjo, Senior Fellow, Resources for the Future
- Larry Selzer, President and CEO, The Conservation Fund
- Steven A. Williams, President & CEO, Wildlife Management Institute
- Mike Zagata, Executive Director and CEO, Ruffed Grouse Society

Board members representing the social sector, which includes community or social interest groups such as universities, labor, professional loggers, family forest owners or government agencies:

- Marvin Brown (Vice Chair), State Forester, Oregon Department of Forestry
- Mary Motlow (Secretary/Treasurer), representing family forest owners
- Richard Brinker, Dean, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University
- R. Thomas Buffenbarger, International President, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
- Norm. L. Christensen Jr., Professor of Ecology & Past Dean, Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences at Duke University
- Robert A. (Bob) Luoto, representing independent professional loggers and the American Loggers Council

Board members representing the economic sector, which includes the forest, paper and wood products industry or other for-profit forest ownership or management entities:

- Rick R. Holley (Chair), President & CEO, Plum Creek Timber Company Inc
- Matthew Donegan, Co-President, Forest Capital Partners LLC
- John Faraci, Chairman & CEO, International Paper Company
- Daniel S. Fulton, President and CEO, Weyerhaeuser Company
- Henry H. (Hank) Ketcham, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd.
- Patrick J. Moore, Chairman, President & CEO, Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation