



News Release

October 16, 2019

For Immediate Release/ PICTURE ATTACHED

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Pictured: Berry Thomas and Harold Anderson

Berry Thomas Receives Mississippi Forestry Association's 2019 Harold Anderson Excellence Award

Jackson, Miss. - Mississippi Forestry Association (MFA) named Berry Thomas of Shubuta as the recipient of the 2019 Harold Anderson Excellence Award. MFA presented the award at its annual President's Banquet, a highlight of the 2019 MFA Annual Meeting in Jackson. This is the first year the award has been given.

Berry has been the key to re-establishing the Clarke County Forestry Association (CFA) and is currently serving as the CFA president. His initiative and drive to have a thriving, service oriented, county CFA have single-handedly revitalized Clarke CFA.

Barry serves on the Mississippi State University Extension Disaster Assistance Team for Clarke County and assisted with damage assessments for over 10,000 acres after the April 2019 tornadoes. He is also very active with 4-H and spends numerous hours coaching youth to prepare them for the state forestry and national shooting competitions. In addition, he has helped organize, set up and host over 500 youth from 28 counties in a 4-H sanctioned shooting sports competition.

The Harold Anderson Excellence Award is named for former Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) employee and Project Learning Tree Coordinator, Harold Anderson. The purpose of the award is to recognize an employee of MFC who is dependable, admired by his or her peers, has a positive attitude and exemplary work record, is active in his or her community and is a good ambassador of MFC and state employees as a whole.

Mississippi Forestry Association's vision is to serve as the "Voice of Forestry" in Mississippi. MFA's mission is leading diverse groups to promote landowner rights, environmental stewardship, member prosperity, and community understanding. MFA

members and staff work to accomplish the mission by conducting public affairs, communication, and education programs that will foster better understanding and appreciation of conservation, development, and use of forestland and resources. To learn more, visit www.msforestry.net.