

Does The Forest LEAVE You Inspired?

kidzbiz

Man on a mission

by Leslie Rowe

Steven Harber walks like a man on a mission. A senior at Southeast High School, his stride is purposeful—like he's going places. Actually, Steven was using his long, fast stride and a compass to measure the distance on land, one of the competitive exercises in Forestry, an event he will participate in during upcoming FFA competitions. During the competition, he'll also have to identify forestry tools; bugs and diseases; different types of trees; determine the total board feet found in a pine tree, and take a general knowledge exam of the forest industry.



Steven Harber

Despite the stride, Steven is a man on a mission. And, he *does* plan on going places! Check out his resume: current President of the Southeast Manatee Senior FFA Chapter; the FFA District 10 Secretary; a member of several

judging teams including Forestry, Land Judging, Meat Judging, and Parliamentary Procedures; a participant in showing Holstein dairy cows and swine—last year placing first in State in the Dairy Show Team; Vice-President and founder of the Inter-Club Council; captain of the varsity wrestling team, and assistant coach of the JV wrestling team. After high school, he plans to run for an FFA State office, and attend the University of Florida where he will major in Agriculture Education with a minor in Agribusiness. With Steven's accomplishments and determination, he's sure to go far.

School biz

Success at Southeast FFA

by Leslie Rowe

Mike Buckley truly enjoys teaching Agriscience at Southeast High School. Observing his easy-going bantering among his students and the friendly respect they offer, you believe him when he says his true calling is teaching. In fact, he'd prefer that this article focus on the students, not the teacher.



Mike Buckley

Under Mike Buckley's tutelage, students in his National FFA program have accomplished some amazing feats, given that the school pulls primarily from town kids without an agricultural background. In 2003 Southeast's FFA earned: Dairy Show Team—1st in State; Poultry Judging—3rd in State; Citrus Judging—6th in State; Vegetable Judging—9th in State (out of 84 contestants); Extemporaneous Speaking—6th in State; Parliamentary Procedure—District Champs, 10th in State; Land Judging—County Champs, 10th in State; Meat Judging—9th in State; and Swine Show Team—first in class; qualified for show championship.

That list alone should make a guy proud of his students. And he is. "We've got an 'inner-city' school—not an agricultural one," Buckley said. "The key to our success is giving them responsibility. People complain that kids today don't take responsibility—but we have to give it to them. I show them what to do—and they do it!"

Agriscience

Picture yourself in a forestry career

by Julie Gillies

Does a walk through the woods inspire you? Do you enjoy being outside in the fresh air, and have a love for nature? Maybe a career in forestry would suit you. With well over 700 million acres of forestland, the United States has the need for forestry experts to protect and properly manage its many parks and conservation areas. Here is a look at the duties and education requirements of a forester and a forestry technician, two real hands-on jobs.

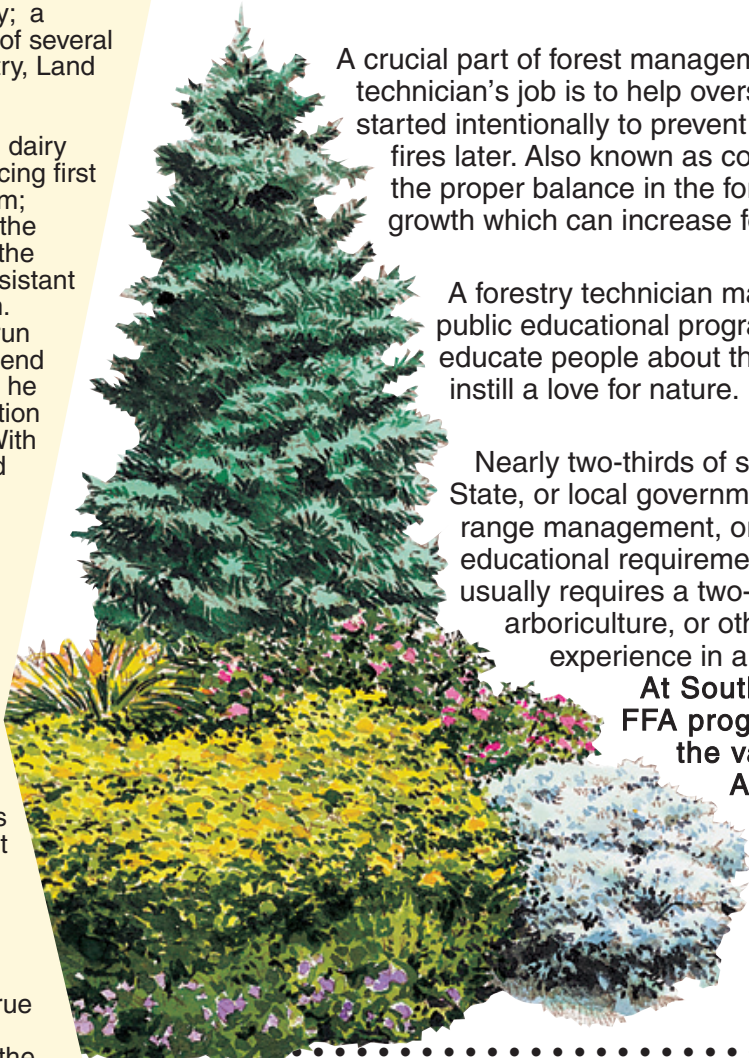
Foresters manage forested lands for a variety of purposes, considering economics as well as the environmental impact on natural resources. The forestry technician's job is to help to maintain and monitor the forest. They do this by gathering information about the many different trees and plants in the forest. The forestry technician works under the supervision of the forester, who devises the actual plans for keeping that particular forest healthy. The forester then gives the information to the forestry technician, who performs the actual maintenance. Sometimes the forestry technician plants new trees or plants. He or she may inspect trees for disease or insect damage and compile the information so that the forest can be properly monitored. Other duties can include maintaining campsites and roads.

A crucial part of forest management is fire prevention. The forestry technician's job is to help oversee control-fires, or fires which are started intentionally to prevent more hazardous, out-of-control forest fires later. Also known as controlled burns, these fires maintain the proper balance in the forest and remove unwanted, built-up growth which can increase forest fire risk.

A forestry technician may be responsible for conducting public educational programs at national parks. The goal is to educate people about the forest and conservation, and to instill a love for nature.

Nearly two-thirds of salaried foresters work for Federal, State, or local governments. A bachelor's degree in forestry, range management, or a related discipline is the minimum educational requirement for a forester. A forestry technician usually requires a two-year degree in forestry, horticulture, arboriculture, or other natural resources or two years experience in a forestry or horticultural operation.

At Southeast High School, students in the FFA program are enjoying learning about the variety of careers possible in the Agriscience field. Forestry is just one of them. Maybe you can see the forest through the trees, and a forestry career in your future!



explore it

Walk in a forester or forestry technician's shoes for a day! Spend a day enjoying nature. Find and visit a state or local park with a forest area. Take along a clipboard with paper, pencil and some leaf or tree identification books that can be found in your local library. Don't forget to bring water and plenty of insect repellent. Below are some ideas to help you 'try on' the career of a forestry technician.

- Spend a morning or afternoon identifying trees and plants.
- Once you've identified the plants and trees, write up your own mini-education program. Try it out later on your family and friends.
- Try to identify potential problems in the park. Is there a lot of dry underbrush? Do any trees look diseased?
- If you notice a diseased tree, write down a detailed description of what you see. When you get home, try to identify it by searching online or at the library.
- Notice if the trails are well maintained. Do they need work? What sort of plan would you come up with if you were in charge of the park? Create a detailed list of how you would bring improvement.
- Watch for insect infestations. Try to identify the insects involved and create your own inspection report.

Happy Forestry!

Discover the Future

The following jobs involve working in the forest in some capacity. You can find out more at your local library.

- Forester
- Forestry Researcher
- Forestry Technician
- Conservationist
- Wood Scientist
- Park Ranger
- Park Manager
- National Park Worker
- Arborist
- Logging Industry Worker
- Naturalist
- Mill Plant Manager
- Forest Ecologist
- Tree Surgeon

For more career information see your school counselor and get information on-line at:
<http://jobstar.org/tools/career/spec-car.cfm>
 OR
<http://www.acinet.org/acinet/default.asp>



About Agriscience and FFA

Agricultural education is about the science, business, and technology of plant and animal production and about the environmental and natural resources systems. As part of the Agriscience program, FFA participation develops leadership and confidence in students. It promotes achievement and excellence in scholarship. The organization encourages wise management of economic, environmental, and human resources in the community, and exposes students to the many career opportunities in agriculture. FFA makes a difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

source: www.ffa.org, www.flaffa.org

InquiziKidz page is published every Wednesday in the Bradenton Herald-East Manatee Herald. Provided by Newspaper in Education, Kristin Lamphron, Education Manager (941) 748-0411 ext. 5031 Darren Falterman, Digital Media Specialist © Knight-Ridder Productions, inc.

Southeast High School

- Ballard Elementary Magnet
- Daughtrey Preparatory Magnet
- Harlee Middle Magnet
- Johnson Middle Magnet
- Lee Middle Magnet



- Lincoln Middle Magnet
- Manatee Elementary Magnet
- Rowlett Elementary Magnet
- Tillman Elementary Magnet
- Wakeland Elementary Magnet

Schools listed in red offer instruction in the subject area featured in today's InquiziKIDz



- <http://www.ffa.org>
- <http://www.flaffa.org>
- <http://www.safnet.org>
- <http://www.iseek.org/sv/13000.jsp?id=100088>
- http://forestry.about.com/cs/treed/a/100_trees
- <http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/ffws/ffwshome.htm>
- <http://www.conservation.state.mo.us/conmag/2003/07/20.htm>
- <http://www.campusprogram.com/employment/subject/Forestry.html>