



## Greenprint on the Gulf Coast

On the eve of the second anniversary of the devastation of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Biloxi, Mississippi brought together 60 tree specialists and local officials from across the Gulf Coast to hear a very special message: the Sacramento Tree Foundation's Greenprint Initiative. In partnership with The Home Depot Foundation, this workshop's goal was to develop a regional plan to support Replant South Mississippi, a nonprofit which will populate the Coast with 300,000 native sapling trees in the next few years.

With key speakers Allison Anderson, President of Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain, Ricky Mathews of the Sun Herald newspaper, Deann Fordham of The Home Depot Foundation, and Ray Tretheway and Eric Douglas of the Sacramento Tree Foundation; participants discussed the potential benefits of their forthcoming regional plan, the actual impact of trees, and how to use this information as a communication strategy to move elected officials.

Participants tackled different components necessary to build their comprehensive plan. One group created a mission statement for a new nonprofit organization, tentatively named

Greenprint South Mississippi, which would steward separate forestry endeavors along the Coast to create a single cohesive effort; another group created a model tree-planting and maintenance ordinance that could be used by municipalities and counties throughout South Mississippi; and all created specific goals and projections for their own communities. The City of Gulfport foresees planting 100,000 residential and public trees in the next three years. Bay St. Louis projects planting 60,000 trees in three years, while Lucedale plans to plant 15,000 trees.

This workshop was supported by The Home Depot Foundation and the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain. We would like to give special thanks to The Sun Herald, the Mississippi Forestry Commission, and Judy Steckler, director of the Land Trust for their efforts and dedication to the Tree Foundation's Greenprint Initiative.

The Sacramento Tree Foundation will continue its national outreach by "Sharing the Greenprint Model" with upcoming workshops in Incline Village, NV in September 2007 and Houston, TX in January 2008.

*Aletha Hill*

"You can't just go to these officials and say, 'We want better streets.'

That won't work," Douglas said. "You've got to go in with specific things you want done and tie it to dollars and cents."

**Eric Douglas,**  
VICE PRESIDENT,  
SACRAMENTO TREE  
FOUNDATION

