



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON  
COMMISSIONER

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Commissioner Gipson Hosts Genuine MS Podcast Featuring Guests from Canton, Philadelphia, and Ackerman**

For the past month, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson has been utilizing the Genuine MS Podcast to promote local farmers and entrepreneurs and the state branding program itself with a series of episodes that will continue to run throughout the summer.

In episode five of the series, Commissioner Gipson leads the discussion on *Wood at Work*, emphasizing the state's billion-dollar forestry industry and its direct relationship to goods grown, raised, crafted and made right here in Mississippi. Guests include Greg Harkins, Master Craftsman and owner of Harkins Chairs in Canton; Pat Thomasson, CEO and Chairman of the Board of the Thomasson Company located in Philadelphia; and Eric Chambers, owner of Chambers Delimbinator in Ackerman.

"This episode informs listeners about the impact Mississippi timber has on our everyday lives and our on our economy," Commissioner Gipson explained. "Every person featured in this episode does a great job at giving us a view of the world from the perspective of the timber industry."

This episode, along with others, can be conveniently accessed from the Genuine MS website ([GenuineMS.com/podcast](http://GenuineMS.com/podcast)), Stitcher, Spotify, and SoundCloud. More episodes featuring other Genuine MS members will be released throughout the summer.

Genuine MS was developed by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce to identify and promote products proudly created or produced by Mississippi farmers, artisans, entrepreneurs, and manufacturers. The purpose of the Genuine MS program is to increase public awareness of Mississippi's farm, food, crafted, and fabricated products by branding them as Genuine MS.

For more information about Genuine MS products, its members, or becoming a member, visit [GenuineMS.com](http://GenuineMS.com) or contact the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's Market Development Division at (601) 359-1159 or [Info@GenuineMS.com](mailto:Info@GenuineMS.com). Follow Genuine MS on Facebook and Instagram at @GenuineMississippi or on Twitter at @GenMississippi for the latest updates.

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**Photo attached.**



Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson explores the state's forestry industry on the Genuine MS podcast episode *Wood at Work*. Guests included (left to right) Eric Chambers, owner of Chambers Deliminator in Ackerman; Pat Thomasson, CEO and Chairman of the Board of the Thomasson Company located in Philadelphia; and Greg Harkins, Master Craftsman and owner of Harkins Chairs in Canton.