

RANDOM PLOTS

NEWSLETTER

of the

NC STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

No.34 February, 1999

House Bill 577 Becomes Effective January 1, 1999:

Many of you already know that House Bill 577, *An Act to Strengthen the Registration Requirement for Foresters*, passed the final hurdle in the Legislature last September, and became effective January 1, 1999. However, many of you have not actually seen a final copy of the bill after numerous changes were made along its timely journey. Attached to this Newsletter is a copy of the final product, for your information.

As is the case with any new bill, rules must be adapted to fit the new provisions. The Board is in the process of drafting those rules, but it will most likely take many months before they are officially adopted. These rules will be subject to approval by the North Carolina Rules Review Commission, the Office of Administrative Hearings, and the State Legislature. However, the new rules will be in effect as temporary rules as of March 1, 1999. A hearing will be held for the public's comments sometime during the summer of 1999.

A copy of the final rules will be printed in a future newsletter, as they become available.

Continuing Forestry Education:

Section 89B-11-(b) of House Bill 577 states that *The Board shall require registered foresters to attend continuing education courses approved by the Board, not to exceed 12 hours per year, as a condition of renewal.* At this date, it is the Board's intent that **10** hours of CFE's (**6 SAF category 1, & 4 SAF cat. 1, 2, 3, or 4**) will be required by the Board, **beginning the fiscal year July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000.** Registered Foresters will be required to certify their CFE's when they renew their application annually. Any CFE's earned prior to July 1, 1999, will **not be acceptable** to be used towards the June 30, 2000, requirements.

Look for a list of websites, telephone numbers, and other pertinent information concerning continuing education programs being offered by colleges, universities, and other certified forestry associations, in the next newsletter.

Board Member Update:

The final term for longtime Board member, Sam Hughes, expired June 30, 1997. Sam remained active on the board, awaiting his replacement to be appointed by the Governor's office.

The new appointee, Larry H. Harris, attended his first meeting with the Board on December 16, 1998. Larry is a native of Fayetteville, and was educated in the Fayetteville City School System. He received a B.S. in Forest Management from North Carolina State University in 1968. He served in the U. S. Army for three years, attaining the rank of First Lieutenant.

After completing military service, Larry worked as procurement forester and mill superintendent for Ward Lumber Company in Elizabethtown, N. C. He was later employed as a consulting forester with Bladen Insurance & Realty, Elizabethtown.

In 1976, he moved to Mt. Gilead, N. C., where he assumed his present position as head Forester for Jordan Lumber and Supply, Inc.

Larry is married and has two sons. He is a member of First United Methodist Church, member and past president of the local Lions Club, member and past president of Central Carolina Forestry Club, and a former member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Forestry Association. Hobbies include exercising, turkey hunting, golf, and horses.

The election of officers was held at the January 26, 1999, meeting. It was by unanimous decision of the Board members that the officer positions remain the same; Rick A. Hamilton, R.F. # 799, as Chairman, Derryl L. Walden, R.F. # 705, as Vice Chairman, and Jack V. Rich, R.F. # 517, as Secretary/Treasurer. Other members include Larry H. Harris, R.F. # 971, and Lucious Hawkins, at large.

Applicants / Registrants:

Since June, 1998, new registrants have increased our RF numbers from #1255 to #1368, and the Board has processed eight reinstatements. At the end of 1997 there were 1229 RF's on record, showing a one year increase of 139, or about 11%.

Since June, there were 113 approvals out of approximately 176 applications, some 63 having been tabled, deferred and/or denied.

Of the 1,368 foresters that have been registered since the program was signed into law on July 1, 1975, approximately 1,090 remain active. Included in the total are about 254 who have filed affidavits to qualify as Consulting Foresters. At the end of 1997 there were 196 RF's that held the "CF" designation. That is an increase of almost 30% in one year.

Thirty-five individuals sat for examination December 8, 1998, at Goldsboro, N. C. Seven people successfully achieved a passing grade. The examination is scheduled to be given approximately every six months.

The responsibility for administering the Forester's Examination, as well as grading it, has been in the capable hands of Rick Hamilton, who has managed this task since he came on board as a member in May, 1995.

"Ethics"

Continuance of a series by; Derryl L. Walden, Vice Chairman & Deputy Director, N. C. Division of Forest Resources, DEHNR

One of the canons in the Board's official Code of Ethics that receives considerable questions and discussion is the one dealing with conflict of interest. Canon number eight says, in part, "A Registered Forester must avoid conflicts of interest or even the appearance of such conflicts." *By appearance of conflict* being an integral part of the code, it greatly expands the commitment each of us has made as

registered foresters. We have agreed not only to be technically legal in our actions, but to also stay out of all situations that may be perceived as having the potential to compromise our professionalism. As professionals we should expect no less from ourselves or other foresters.

Scheduled Events:

The next meeting of the N. C. State Board of Registration for Foresters is scheduled for April 8, 1999, at a location in Raleigh to be announced.

The next meeting of the Association of Southeastern Boards of Registration for Foresters is scheduled for early April, somewhere on, or around, the University of Georgia campus in Athens, Georgia.

Details are still being worked out.

JVR/jvr