

RANDOM PLOTS

NEWSLETTER of the NC STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

No.35 June, 1999

Annual Renewal Fee Notice:

Your current registration expires on June 30, 1999, and will be invalid unless the revised annual renewal fee in the amount of \$30.00 (thirty dollars) is submitted promptly. Please complete the accompanying Annual Renewal Fee Notice and return it, along with your fee, as soon as possible. Please be sure your address and other information is entered correctly, for this form provides the information to be included in the N.C. Roster of Registered Foresters. Do it now and avoid the penalty and/or being cut from the Roster.

Public Hearings for New Forester Registration Procedures:

The law which outlines the requirements to be a registered forester in North Carolina was revised by the 1998 legislature. A copy of the revised law was included in the February, 1999, newsletter *Random Plots*.

Proposed administrative rules which provide details on how the changes in the law will be administered by the Board of Registration for Foresters have been developed and filed with the state. A copy of the proposed rules is included in this newsletter.

Two public hearings have been scheduled to discuss and receive input on the proposed rules. One hearing is scheduled for Friday, June 11, 1999, at approximately 12:00 noon, at the Holiday Inn-Airport, Greensboro, N. C., following the close of the N. C. Society of American Foresters meeting. The second hearing will be on Tuesday, June 22, 1999, at 1:30 p.m., in room 107 of the Agriculture Building, at the Wake County Office Park. The Office Park is located at 4001 Carya Drive, Raleigh, which is off Poole Road, 1/3 mile east of the I-440 beltline.

Written inputs on the rules can also be submitted until July 1, 1999, to the State Board of Registration, at the address above.

Among the changes involved in the law revision to be addressed are: mandatory registration for all foresters, examination prerequisites for registration, Continuing Forestry Education requirements, and a revised fee structure. Questions may be addressed to the Board of Registration for Foresters, or any Board member.

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.*

Proposed rules require that every non-retired Registered Forester have at least 10 hours of CFE's per year (6 SAF category 1, & 4 SAF cat. 1, 2, 3, or 4), beginning the fiscal year July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000. All retired foresters wishing to remain on registered status must have at least 3 credit hours per year. RF's 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.

A copy of the DRAFT CFE Activity Report is included with this newsletter. Each RF will receive another copy of the form with next year's renewal information. The copy is provided for reference only, and is not required to be completed or sent back to this office at this time.

A list of websites, telephone numbers, and other pertinent information concerning continuing education programs being offered by colleges, universities, and other certified forestry associations, are included in this newsletter.

Applicants / Registrants:

Since the mailing of the February, 1999, newsletter new registrants have increased our RF numbers from #1368 to #1375, which represents a marked decrease in activity, compared to all of 1997 and 1998.

The Association of Southeastern Boards of Registration for Foresters (ASBORF):

State Board of Registration Secretary/ Treasurer Jack V. Rich represented North Carolina at the annual meeting of the Association of Southeastern Boards of Registration for Foresters (ASBORF), hosted by the University of Georgia's Daniel B. Warnell School of Forest Resources, April 12 & 13, 1999.

The coalition is a "Board of Boards" formed about six years ago in an effort to promote the discussion of ideas of mutual interest concerning forestry licensing/registration which transcend state boundaries. It is intended to promote, when possible, uniformity among individual Boards and to assist in the investigation and conviction of persons who challenge the laws of one or more states by conducting interstate activities.

Ten Board members from Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi and North Carolina were present this year. Arkansas and Alabama are also members of the coalition, but did not have representatives present. Two foresters from Virginia and Pennsylvania, who are presently working on structuring a forester licensing law, were also present as guests.

Along with the standard business meeting and individual state reports, the Dean of the University of Georgia's School of Forestry, Dr. Arnett Mace, conducted a tour of the school. Presentations were also given by the head of the University's Continuing Education Department and the Forest Policy Faculty. The Chairman of ASBORF for 1999/2000 is Jack V. Rich, N.C., Vice-Chairman is Bonner Jones, Georgia, and the Secretary/Treasurer position is held by Kenney Funderburke, Jr., S.C. The next meeting is proposed to be held around the same time next year, in Arkansas, or North Carolina

Scheduled Events:

Proposed rules public hearings are to be held June 11 & 22, 1999, (see *Public Hearings for New Forester Registration Procedures*, on page one.)

The next meeting of the N. C. State Board of Registration for Foresters is scheduled for July 1, 1999, at a location in Raleigh to be announced.

JVR/jvr